Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-222
Friday
17 November 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-222 *17 November 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Peace Process, Working With Peres *[AFP]* 1
PLO Charter To Remain Until Settlement Reached *[AFP]* 1
Qaddumi Says Time for 'Closing Palestinian Ranks' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Nov]* 1
PNC Statement on Conditions for 'Real Peace' *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Jihad Official on 'Weaker' Peres, Suicide Operations *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 2

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Agrees To Evacuate Bethlehem 1 Week Early *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Steering Committee Reviews Redeployment Implementation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
More on Steering Committee Decisions *[Government Press Office]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Interior Minister Announces Zeroual Victory *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Notes Calm Atmosphere of Elections *[Algiers TV]* 4
HAMAS Disputes Election Results, Reports Abuse *[Paris TV]* 4
FIS Spokesman: Election Changes Nothing *[Paris TV]* 5
Socialist Forces Leader Questions Election's Impartiality *[Paris TV]* 6
Election Commission Chairman Hails Voters *[Algiers TV]* 7
Expatriate Vote in France: Turnout 65% *[Algiers TV]* 8
TV Program Shows Election in Progress *[Algiers TV]* 8
Bomb Explodes in Tizi Ouzou; Elections Not Affected *[Algiers Radio]* 9

Egypt

'Militants' Promise To Avenge Leader's Death *[AFP]* 9
Mubarak Reportedly Planning To Replace Musa *[Jerusalem TV]* 10
Mubarak on Sudan's 'Allegations,' Diplomat's Murder *[MENA]* 10
Mubarak on Peace Process, 'Terrorism,' Elections *[MENA]* 10
Women Candidates Discuss Issues, 'Competition' *[AFP]* 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Third 'Militant' Group Claims Riyadh Attack *[AFP]* 14
Economic, Political Impact of Bombing Dismissed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Nov]* 14
Riyadh Bombing Called Part of 'Wave of Violence' *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 16 Nov]* 15
Newspapers Deplore 'Vicious' Explosion in Riyadh *[SPA]* 16

IRAQ

Saddam Reportedly Dismisses Half Brother as Security Chief *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Nov]* 17

PUK Spokesman on lks With U.S. Delegation *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 17
PUK Official Criticizes U.S. Mediation *[Tehran International]* 17
KDP Issues Statement on Talks With U.S. Delegates *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 19
Kurdish Councils Condemn 'Blatant U.S. Interference' *[Baghdad TV]* 19
Daily Criticizes Deutsch's Entry Into Kurdistan *[INA]* 19
Turkish Delegation Arrives for Talks With KDP *[IRNA]* 20
Saddam Discusses Environmental Pollution *[Baghdad TV]* 20
Family Animosity Said Continuing in Leadership *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 6 Oct]* 21
Saddam Expresses Views on Democracy, Leadership *[ALIF BA' 6 Sep]* 23

ISRAEL

Peres Hopes To Present New Government 'Next Week' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Further on Peres Government Decisions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Peres Warns of Civil War if Majority Ruling Not Accepted *[DAVAR RISHON 17 Nov]* 24
Peres Says No Compromises To Be Made on Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
SHAS To Support Peres Government in Knesset Vote *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Paper on Shelved Plan To Assassinate SHAS Leaders *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Charges EYAL Founded by Shin Bet Termed 'Rubbish' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
Suspect Admits Consulting Rabbi Outside Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Possible Crackdown on 'Inciters' Within Green Line *[HA'ARETZ 17 Nov]* 26
Iraqi Nuclear Project Seen as Ongoing Threat to West *[HA'ARETZ 14 Nov]* 27
Poll Shows Peres Leading Netanyahu for Prime Minister *[MA'ARIV 17 Nov]* 28

JORDAN

King Sends Message to Saudi King Fahd on Ties *[Amman Radio]* 29
King Receives Credentials of Saudi Ambassador *[Amman Radio]* 29
Israeli Arab Team Pays Visit, Meets With Leaders 29
Meets King Husayn *[Amman TV]* 29
Meets Foreign Minister *[Amman TV]* 30
King Husayn, Queen Nur Leave for London *[Amman Radio]* 30

LEBANON

Former Parliament Figure Denounces Assassination *[AL-NAHAR 8 Nov]* 31
Hizballah Radio Round Up of Security Developments *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 31

SYRIA

Radio Views Ross Tour, Reiterates Peace Stand *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Ba'th Party's al-Ahmar Addresses Anniversary Rally *[Damascus TV]* 32

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Endorses Mechanism for Transfer of Power *[AFP]* 35
List of Proposed Council Members *[AFP]* 35

Bangladesh

Ruling Party Favors 'General Elections' *[Dhaka Radio]* 35

India

China's Qiao Shi Meets Leaders, Discusses Ties *[Delhi Radio]* 36

Delhi Brings in New Negotiator for Kashmir Hostages *[AFP]* 36
Paper Rejects U.S. Mediation Role in Kashmir *[JANSATTA 15 Nov]* 36
Paper Views U.S. Policy on Kashmir Elections *[HINDUSTAN 15 Nov]* 37
Paper Cautions Against 'Anti-American Hysteria' *[INDIAN EXPRESS 16 Nov]* 38
Japanese Firm To Act as 'Catalyst' for Business Ventures *[THE TELEGRAPH 15 Nov]* 39

Iran

Velayati Rejects U.S. World Leadership 'Dream' *[Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER 13 Nov]* 40
Rafsanjani: Velayat-e Faqih 'Pillar' of Rule *[Tehran TV]* 41
Rafsanjani Inaugurates Dam in Marivan *[IRNA]* 41
Further on Visit To Kordestan *[IRNA]* 42
Spokesman Denies Connection With Riyadh Bomb *[IRNA]* 42
Envoy Criticizes UN Security Council's Veto Power *[IRNA]* 42
Commentary: Algerian Elections 'Superficial Display' *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Commentary: Algerian Elections 'Unsuccessful' *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Commentary on U.S. 'Mediatory' Role in Afghanistan *[RESALAT]* 44
Roundtable in Bushehr To Discuss 'Velayat-e Faqih' *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Embezzlement Verdicts Against 5 Convicts Endorsed *[Tehran TV]* 45
IRNA Accuses UK Paper of Hostility Toward Iran 45
Trip by Rafsanjani's Son to West Viewed *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 6 Oct]* 46
U.S. Relations, Dual Containment Viewed *[London AL-HAWADITH 18 Aug]* 48
Student Association Discusses Future Role of Clergy *[SALAM 4 Nov]* 52
Majles Speaker: Women's Status Higher Than in Europe *[IRNA]* 52
Joint Stock Firm To Collaborate Internationally *[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY 21 Oct]* 53
Semnan Firm Exports Ferrosilicon to Germany, Italy *[IRNA]* 53

Pakistan

Differences With Tehran on Afghanistan Revealed *[THE MUSLIM 17 Nov]* 53
'Peaceful Solution' Sought *[Islamabad International]* 55

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Government Offensive Near Jaffna 55
Kondavil Falls *[DAILY NEWS 15 Nov]* 55
Rebels Suffer 'Heavy' Casualties *[DAILY NEWS 16 Nov]* 56
LTTE Intelligence Camp Captured *[AFP]* 56
'Amnesty' Offered to Rebels *[AFP]* 57
Troops Within 1 km of Jaffna *[Colombo International]* 57
Police: LTTE Sends 30 Bombers To Kill President *[AFP]* 58
Police Increase Bounty for LTTE Leader *[DAILY NEWS 16 Nov]* 58

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Peace Process, Working With Peres

AU1611133395 Paris AFP in English 1259 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Nov 16 (AFP) — PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat paid tribute Thursday [16 November] to assassinated Israeli premier Yitzhaq Rabin, and pledged to continue to work for peace with his successor Shimon Peres.

Describing Rabin as his "partner in the march towards the future," Arafat pledged that "wounds suffered on the road to peace can only be treated by more peace and faith in peace."

The Palestinian leader, speaking at ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of UNESCO, pledged that the peace process was irreversible, saying: "The steps we have taken, Israelis and us, on a difficult bridge, are a stage of a march which cannot go backwards."

"The greatest danger which threatens the peace process is hesitation or delay, stopping things when they are only half done."

Speaking shortly before his UNESCO address, he said he was convinced that Peres "will continue on the path to peace with the same determination as Yitzhaq Rabin."

Rabin was shot dead on November 4 by a Jewish fanatic opposed to the peace process. Peres was officially named as new prime minister on Wednesday.

At UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters, 'Arafat also called for progress on the issue of Jerusalem, which he described as the capital of an independent Palestinian state.

He said hammering out the future of Jerusalem was an international "cultural and political task," stressing that the city must "remain a home of co-existence, tolerance and pluralism, the capital of eternal peace."

He stressed the "passionate aspiration (of the Palestinian people) for independence and sovereignty within an independent state and its capital, the holy city of Al-Qods."

Israel captured and annexed Arab East Jerusalem in 1967 and claims the whole city as its undivided and eternal capital. It is to begin talks with the PLO on the future status of Jerusalem by next May.

'Arafat also announced that he is planning a Christmas visit to Bethlehem, one of six towns due to be handed over to Palestinian rule by then under the Israeli-PLO West Bank autonomy deal.

Speaking immediately after a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac, he said: "Definitely I'll go to Bethlehem, next Christmas, with the Palestinian flag for the first time."

'Arafat also said he hoped to attend the Euro-Mediterranean conference which will be held in Barcelona on November 27 and 28 and which will bring together the 15-member European Union and 13 Mediterranean countries.

PLO Charter To Remain Until Settlement Reached

NC1611130595 Paris AFP in English 1217 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 16 (AFP)—The PLO charter calling for the destruction of Israel will remain unaltered until a final settlement is reached for the territories, the president of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile said Thursday [16 November].

The Israel-PLO agreement signed in Washington on September 28 extending self-rule on the West Bank says that the offending articles should be annulled two months after the autonomy council is formed. Elections are set for January 20.

But Salim al-Za'nun, president of the Palestine National Council, told the AL-'ARABI daily "there is currently no plan to modify the charter and there will be no PNC meeting before the end of the negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories."

He added that the new self-rule council will not have the authority to change the charter, and will only comprise about an eighth of the members of the PNC.

Any change to the PLO charter must be approved by a full session of the PNC.

Qaddumi Says Time for 'Closing Palestinian Ranks'

MM1711110995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Qaddumi Says: After Rabin's Assassination I Found It Necessary To Attend Meetings"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf) has announced that this stage, especially after the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, prompts the closing of Palestinian ranks.

Qaddumi, who is currently in Damascus, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his attendance of the PLO Executive Committee meeting in Cairo, which he boycotted in the past, can be understood in the framework

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of uniting the Palestinian ranks to confront new developments.

On his current visit to Syria he stressed that he will meet with the Damascus-based Palestinian factions to discuss specifically the Palestinian elections issue with them, their view of the elections, and their participation in them.

Qaddumi said that the time is right for all Palestinians to do whatever consolidates the Palestinian existence on their territory. He pointed out that his talks with Syrian officials deal with events on the Arab stage in general, especially the Syrian position on the peace process, and the influential Syrian role in supporting the Palestinians and their just issues.

An official source from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said that Qaddumi and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah held a meeting yesterday to discuss Palestinian affairs, developments in the occupied territories, and the results of the central committee meetings. The source added: Hawatimah informed Qaddumi of the DFLP's position rejecting participation in the election process. It was agreed to hold another meeting today to discuss coordinating positions vis-a-vis the elections.

PNC Statement on Conditions for 'Real Peace'

JN1611204595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] has said that establishing an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital as well as securing the right to repatriation for all Palestinian refugees are the conditions for a just and comprehensive solution in the region.

In a statement on the seventh anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the PNC added that the National Authority is the first step toward achieving our people's noble objectives.

The statement pointed out that the Palestinian people seek a real peace, so all Palestinian citizens can live securely and peacefully. It also asserted that the Palestinian people, who have struggled for freedom and independence, are also struggling for the establishment of real peace.

Jihad Official on 'Weaker' Peres, Suicide Operations

NC1711085795 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Report by Hani Fakhr-al-Din from the "Islamic Jihad office in Damascus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Ahmad 'Isam, member of the Islamic Jihad command and official in charge of Jihad foreign relations, has said that Shim'on Peres, who is currently forming a new Zionist government, will encounter problems and be subjected to extortion and pressure. Peres will eventually be obliged to make deals with the Labor Party itself and with other Zionist powers, he said. Abu Ahmad says this is because Peres is weaker than Rabin in terms of his influence on the Zionist apparatuses, particularly the security and military establishments.

Abu Ahmad believes that any new government under Peres' chairmanship in the transitional period will not be capable of making the decisions that Rabin could not make.

Abu Ahmad expects a relative Israeli retreat in implementing the agreement Rabin signed with 'Arafat and King Husayn, pointing out that Peres will discuss his political and economic plans beyond what Rabin had offered. Hence, I do not expect the coming days to witness positive signs in the Syrian-Israeli track, Abu Ahmad said.

Abu Ahmad responded to the following questions:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] What has the investigation into the martyrdom of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, former Islamic Jihad secretary general, revealed?

['Isam] The investigation is still ongoing. The movement is following up on all the details of the issue.

[Correspondent] Is there anything new regarding suicide or jihad operations?

['Isam] We have to emphasize that we have not for a moment planning stopped military and suicide operations inside Palestine. The two suicide operations that followed the martyrdom of martyr leader Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi confirmed the preparedness of the movement's military apparatuses to strike at Zionist targets. Our preparedness is at the same level. There are security, logistic, and technical obstacles. But, God willing, our brother mujahidin will be able to keep up their jihad and strikes against the Israeli occupation. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Agrees To Evacuate Bethlehem 1 Week Early

TA1711100095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has accepted the Palestinian request to evacuate Bethlehem one week ahead of schedule to enable the Palestinians to prepare for Christmas. A senior Palestinian Authority source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Israel yesterday informed the Palestinians that the redeployment in Bethlehem will be completed on 18 December. Our correspondent notes that according to the redeployment timetable, Israel is slated to evacuate Tulkarm, Nablus, Qalqilyah, and Bethlehem within a 10-day period in December. Ramallah and Hebron's rural areas will be transferred to the Palestinians on 31 December.

Steering Committee Reviews Redeployment Implementation

TA1711065595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Joint Israel-Palestinian Steering Committee met yesterday to review the implementation of the interim agreement. Among the subjects discussed were the army's redeployment, elections in the territories, and economic matters. Head of Israel's delegation, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, said that Israel hopes that the agreement will be fully implemented within the agreed timetable.

Top officials of Israel's security forces met yesterday with their Palestinian counterparts to review together arrangements for the army's redeployment. Senior military commanders, heads of the Civil Administration, and Police officials assembled at the Central Command headquarters at Bet El. Heading the delegations were Major General Gabi Ofir, commander of forces in Judaea and Samaria, and General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the Palestinian Police in the West Bank. The meeting began with a minute of silence in memory of Yitzhaq Rabin.

More on Steering Committee Decisions

TA1711105095 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 17 Nov 95

[Communicated by the Foreign Ministry spokesman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Steering Committee for the Implementation of the Interim Agreement with the Palestinians, led by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir and Palestinian Authority head of Economics Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], met for its second meeting in Ramallah.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction in the manner in which redeployment was carried out in Janin, and decided to continue coordination in the field. Thus, they obligated themselves to hold to the schedule for executing all aspects of the agreement. The Israeli side brought up the need to continue the fight against terrorism; with the entrance of the Palestinian Police, to activate all elements contained in the agreement's Security Annex, including the collection of illegal weapons. The Palestinian side agreed to fully bind itself to this.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction concerning the advances in election preparations. The Palestinians reported that already 1,200 candidates have registered for election to the Palestinian Council — to consist of 82 representatives.

It was agreed that steps will be taken to improve the economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza. Israel will ease the passage of Palestinian business people from the West Bank to Gaza. Therefore, a Palestinian Liaison Officer will be stationed at the passage points.

Next week, four economic committees will convene: The Trilateral Committee headed by Dennis Ross, Uri Savir, and Abu-'Ala'; the Committee to Advance Industrial Parks, headed by Uri Savir, Abu- 'Ala', Finance Ministry Director General David Brodet, and Coordinator for Activities in the Territories Oren Shahor; the Cooperation Committee headed by Uri Savir and Abu-'Ala'; and the Economic Committee headed by Finance Minister Shohat and Abu-'Ala'.

It was agreed that a joint patrol by officers would take place in Hebron for examining the normalization process in the city, and that a Security Committee would be established to deal with security arrangements in Hebron during the election period.

At the meeting's beginning, the Palestinians expressed their condolences at the murder of the late Prime Minister Rabin, and said that this represents a difficult loss for both sides, who need to strengthen their resolve in continuing on the road to peace.

In response to a journalist's question, Uri Savir said that a meeting between the Acting Prime Minister Peres and Chairman 'Arafat will be set after Peres puts together his government.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Interior Minister Announces Zeroual Victory

LD1711110695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Statement by Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour in Algiers — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies gentlemen: It is my pleasure to meet you once again to give you the results obtained following the counting of the votes cast on 16 November 1995 to elect a president of the republic before the official proclamation of the final results by the Constitutional Council in accordance with Article 118 of the electoral law:

Number of registered voters: 15,969,904
Number of voters: 11,965,280
Turnout: 74.92 percent
Number of valid votes: 11,458,572
One: Liamine Zeroual obtained 7,028,118 votes, corresponding to 61.34 percent of the total number of votes cast.
Two: Mahfoud Nahnah obtained 2,907,857 votes, corresponding to 25.38 percent of the total number of votes cast.
Three: Said Sadi obtained 1,064,532 votes, corresponding to 9.29 percent of the total number of votes cast.
Four: Noureddine Boukrouh obtained 433,257 votes, corresponding to 3.78 percent of the total number of votes cast.

Thank you.

Notes Calm Atmosphere of Elections

LD1711064895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Speech by Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour in Algiers — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Algerian people voted on 16 November 1995 and expressed themselves with all freedom and sovereignty so as to elect the president of the republic in the first pluralistic elections in Algeria.

The determination of the state and public authorities to organize presidential elections, and the will of citizens — men and women — to choose by themselves their legitimate representative at the presidency of the republic prevailed over the doubts of some people and the reservations of others.

On this occasion, the Algerian people expressed their sense of deep civic-mindedness, a spirit of collective responsibility, and exemplary discipline in practising their right to vote.

The Algerian people knew how to overcome political pressures and one-upmanship by voting with all pride in an atmosphere where calm and tranquillity prevailed through all the polling stations in which no noteworthy incident was registered. [passage omitted]

Allow me to inform you of the turnout for the elections of 16 November 1995:

Number of people registered: 15,969,904

Number of voters: 11,965,280

Turnout: 74.92 percent.

The final results obtained, as far as the counting operation is concerned, will be given to you later after they are conclusively counted. This will be in the morning, God willing.

I want to add that in view of the difficulties of which you are aware, we have not been able to finish the counting operation in the time we promised you and obtain final results. We will obtain these final results today and I will give them to you personally at about 1200 or 1300.

HAMAS Disputes Election Results, Reports Abuse

LD1611235595 Paris LCI Television in French 2246 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Let us go back to Algiers and talk to the spokesman of one of the candidates in these elections, Abderezzak Makri, the spokesman of the candidate who claims to have Islamist ideas, Mahfoud Nahnah [leader of the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS].

Good evening Mr. Makri. According to the preliminary estimates, we have to be very careful because we know the value of estimates based on polls following voting by people leaving the polling stations as these estimates are not always reliable. Your candidate would have obtained 13.5 to 18 percent. Do you consider that the contract, as far as he is concerned, has been fulfilled?

[Makri] I think that this result is false and is far removed from reality as one must note that there have been many abuses, there have been many threats to and arrests of our activists. Our observers were made to leave the polling stations and ballot boxes were changed. What has taken place in Algeria is out of the ordinary and scandalous, it goes beyond any imagination. We contest this result and it is far removed from reality since we obtained very positive results in favor of Mahfoud Nahnah in the polling stations where our members could vote without pressure and threats.

I can mention to you many examples: There have been many arrests for instance in Blida, Ain Temouchent

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

M'sila, Ain Defla, and many provinces. One of our activists was even arrested and tortured to death. What has taken place, and what is taking place in Algeria is not what the Algerian people wanted. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You contest the sincerity of the result, are you going to contest it before the Constitutional Council?

[Makri] Yes, we started doing that since the early hours of polling today. We have expressed many reservations and submitted files with evidence to the institutions concerned. [passage omitted]

FIS Spokesman: Election Changes Nothing

LD1611234895 Paris LCI Television in French 2215 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Interview with Rabeh Kebir, FIS spokesman abroad, in Bonn, and Malik Ait Aoudia, spokesman for presidential candidate Said Sadi, in the studio, by Sylvain Attal — live; Kebir speaks in Arabic with simultaneous translation into French]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Attal] I would now like to talk to Mr. Rabah Kebir, who is the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] spokesman abroad, and who is with us now [by live satellite link]. It would be impossible to cover an election without having a FIS representative, this is essential. The FIS has decided to boycott this election. We can now let Mr. Kebir talk to us as he is speaking to us live. Mr. Rabah Kebir, good evening:

[Kebir] Hello.

[Attal] You, the FIS, decided to boycott this election. First: what do you think about the turnout given by the Algerian television station at 1800 [1700 GMT] — two hours before the polling centers closed therefore — as already being 65 percent?

[Kebir] According to the information this figure is excessive. The turnout is about 30 to 33 percent, and not more than that.

[Attal] Where do you get these figures from, Mr. Rabah Kebir? Excuse me for asking you this question, but it is important?

[Kebir] I confirm that we have received this information from people working for the Algerian administration.

[Attal] So, if I understand correctly, you are commenting on your figures, and from your point of view, with these figures, you think that this election is a failure?

[Kebir] Certainly, as the Algerian citizens want free and democratic elections in order to emerge from the crisis. This is obvious. But today the majority of Algerians are rejecting this process because it does not constitute a real solution to the crisis.

[Attal] On one particular point, Mr. Rabah Kebir: Everybody was fearing a lot of violence and attacks in Algeria on this important date. Are you personally pleased that none of this has happened?

[Kebir] The Islamic Salvation Front, along with the other parties, called for a peaceful boycott of the elections, a peaceful [boycott].

[Attal] So if Mr. Zeroual, strengthened by the turnout — and probably his election, be it in the first or second round — if Mr. Zeroual wanted to obtain greater legitimacy from this result, what would you have against this?

[Kebir] The Zeroual before the elections and the Zeroual after the elections is the same. It is the same authority. The solution to the crisis will involve a dialogue between all the parties, and with the authorities.

[Attal] So for you this election has not changed anything?

[Kebir] Exactly. These elections change nothing. They have not changed anything because the Algerian citizen wants to emerge from the impasse, the violence and the killings.

[Attal] Mr. Rabah Kebir, of the four candidates there is one candidate who like you draws on Islam's values. If he were to obtain, let us say, between 15 and 20 percent of the votes, how would you interpret this result?

[Kebir] As I said, the Algerian wants free elections, but the situation as it stands, especially the security situation, does not allow for free elections. That is why I do not want to comment on a candidate, whoever he may be.

[Attal] Mr. Kebir, we have seen footage — in France, for example, we have seen the Algerians in France going to vote en masse — or the footage we have seen today from Algerian television, which is much the same, which shows people voting and saying that they want change and that even if it this is not ideal it is nonetheless a way of making things change. Isn't this new?

[Kebir] I think that the turnout is a sign of the Algerians' desire to restore peace and security, and this is what all those who are truly sincere want.

[Attal] Do you fear that Mr. Zeroual will, backed by this result, strengthen his policy after this election, and that he will refuse, even more than before, to move quickly toward the Rome platform?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Kebir] I do not think that it is a question of accepting or rejecting this platform. I think that the Algerians — the authorities, the government, the opposition parties — should really set up a democracy which gives the Algerians freedom.

[Attal] What will the Islamic Salvation Front's position be from tomorrow in order to obtain what you have just called for? What will you do, exactly, as you say that you reject violence?

[Kebir] The FIS remains keen to take part in the search for a non-violent and peaceful solution. We cannot impose this solution. We will find it along with the others.

[Attal] So stay with us, Mr. Rabah Kebir. I would like to ask Mr. Ait Aoudia a question. We have the impression that there is a dialogue of the deaf?

[Aoudia] The problem is that we cannot have any dialogue with Mr. Kebir, who promises death for all the patriotic and democratic forces in Algeria. With the result of this election, or at least the turnout, which will probably be about 70 percent — if we consider that in every election there are about 20 percent of the people who will never vote, that leaves 10 percent who have not gone to vote, either because they were afraid, afraid of Mr. Kebir's threats in particular, or because they didn't want to vote simply because there wasn't a candidate they were happy with.

I think that one of the main things this vote tells us is that the Rome group, which claimed to represent 80 percent of the Algerian population, represents nothing. The FIS is politically and militarily defeated. That is one of the first things we can learn from this election.

[Attal] Mr. Rabah Kebir, what do you think of this?

[Kebir] The FIS, with the other opposition parties, is doing its best to let the greater interest of the Algerian people survive. I regret what has just been said by an Algerian, who accuses others of spreading violence. There is nothing to this, nothing. Quite the contrary. Where the elections are concerned: If these elections had been held in a climate of sec rity, if all the parties could really peacefuly take part — how can it be said or accepted today that the elections took place in a calm atmosphere. That is not the case.

[Attal] Mr. Aoudia?

[Aoudia] Mr. Kebir has from Germany claimed responsibility for assassinations. He has from Germany called for the murder of Algerians. I don't think that he can give any lessons on the subject of violence.

[Kebir] Those are pure lies, because I have never called for the murder of anybody in Algeria.

[Attal] We will end this dialogue, if one can call it dialogue.

Socialist Forces Leader Questions Election's Impartiality

LD1711072195 Paris LCI Television in French 2143 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Hocine Ait Ahmed, secretary general of the Socialist Forces' Front, by Sylvain Attal, in Geneva — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Atall] Good evening Mr. Ait Ahmed.

[Ait Ahmed] Good evening.

[Attal] I will quickly reiterate that you called for a boycott of this election. First, I would like to have your reaction to the turnout. Are you impressed by this turnout?

[Ait Ahmed] Listen, let us not play the percentage game. The media-political stage-managing is perfectly controlled, and much practised, but the realities do not always correspond to the scenes we are presented with. The reality does not always tally with what the journalists in Algiers, or where they are led, see. The reality is first an election in a state of seige, under the double terror of the radical Islamists and the authorities.

There is a state of war. The reality is that the press is gagged. The reality is the closure of the political arena, which is completely controlled by the army. The real opposition parties are forbidden to express themselves or act, and most of the representatives and activists for those who signed in Rome have been arrested, threatened, or even executed, as has happened with my friend M'barek Mahiou, who was one of the national Socialist Forces' Front representatives. In other words, only the press and the candidates who favor the elections have the right to speak.

[Attal] Mr. Ait Ahmed: on the specific issue of the turnout and to be very clear: For you this is not a fact, it is also a manipulation, so you are disputing this figure?

[Ait Ahmed] Exactly. There are 32,000, more than 32,000, voting centers. It would be quite presumptuous to try to express an opinion on the results. All that we know is that there have been really totalitarian manipulations.

[Attal] Earlier, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] representative abroad who was speaking to us on LCI said that nothing has changed. The Zeroual after the elections is the same as the Zeroual before the elections. Is that also how you see it?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Ait Ahmed] Well, the Zeroual after the elections is the same as the Zeroual before the elections. I would not say that Zeroual has been elected as he was already there before the elections, but what we can simply say is that he made a push. There was, to be precise, a last minute push to call on people to vote for peace and democracy. I think that tomorrow he will not have the pretext to say: Do not come with your hands free [as heard], and that he will immediately be able to start real dialogue, real dialogue in transparency and honesty, dialogue which will be different from all the dialogue that has taken place in the last three years, which has been a pretence of dialogue.

[Attal] A simple question Mr. Ait Ahmed: In your opinion, where are the 47 percent of voters who voted for the FIS in 1991?

[Ait Ahmed] Well I think that there is a rejection of the authorities, and then there is an unjust electoral law. We have proposed that the electoral law be completely redone, and that in particular the proportional system be replaced by the two round majority vote, which may have given the FIS 24 or 25 percent instead of 60 percent of the seats.

But that is not the problem. Today we are back where we started. The elections will not solve the problems. The same problems exist on the ground, especially the main problem, which is the letting of blood. What the people want, are calling for, at the top of their voices, is a return to peace and democracy. [passage omitted]

We are calling for a general solution. With this major mobilization of the army: don't you think that if the real opposition was taking part, there would be no problem. We would have restored peace in the space of a few weeks. This means that we greatly regret that our peace offer of January 1995 was rejected and that the authorities have chosen war, especially civil war, to rule Algeria using violence.

[Attal] Hocine Ait Ahmed, please stay with us. I would like to have the reaction of Mr. Ait Aoudia, who is Sa'id Sadi's spokesman in France. In the end, you disagree with Hocine Ait Ahmed over the attitude that should be adopted toward the terrorists. One is in favor of a return to civilian peace, and you are even in favor of arming the villagers so that they can defend themselves?

[Aoudia] No, it's a strategic disagreement. Mr. Ait Ahmed thinks that the crime had to be celebrated in Rome with the organizers of the crime in Algeria in order to restore peace. We chose another path, which was to resist in Algeria. Mr. Ait Ahmed decided to go and live in Lausanne at a time when the Algerians are dying in Algeria. That is why today the National Contract of Rome which was supposed to represent 80 percent of the Algerian population has been rejected by this election, and if this contract has been rejected it is thanks to the mobilization of the female, I stress this, and male citizens, who have resisted, often unarmed, the fundamentalism that Mr. Ait Ahmed has decided to ally himself to.

[Attal] Mr. Ait Ahmed, do you want to answer?

[Ait Ahmed] Listen, mister. I asked you if I would be interviewed alone, and now you are involving me in a debate in which I would not want....

[Attal, interrupting] You don't have to, Mr. Ait Ahmed.

[Ait Ahmed] It's not that I don't have to. Now that I have been challenged — in no way can you bring me down to the level of this kid.

[Aoudia] Algeria is a country where more than [number indistinct] percent of the population is less than 30 years old. I represent them.

[Ait Ahmed] The candidates in this election are candidates for power. What they all have in common is that they were beaten in the legislative elections, and that they have never spoken in favor of peace. They have always supported the policy of eradication. They are armchair secularists. They have no popular base.

And specifically, where the party that he represents is concerned, he has done everything to plunge Kabylie into civil war. He wanted to equate demands regarding [the Berber] language and the fight against terrorism. At a time when it was a question of negotiation with the authorities, with Zeroual himself, over the language problem, there was a consensus between all the Amazigh tendencies to call for an official status for Tamazight as a national language. And it's his boss who broke the contract, and at that time already the real representative of the Berber Cultural Movement said that this was the beginning of an electoral campaign for his boss.

[Attal] Thank you.

Election Commission Chairman Hails Voters

LD1611204195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1954 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Statement by Abdesselam Habachi, chairman of National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In my lifetime I have experienced three happy occasions. The first occasion was on 1 November 1954, the second was on the day we gained

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

independence, and the third is today when the Algerian people responded to the call of duty.

Thank you, thank you, O people of miracles. You have demonstrated to the whole world that you are a civilized people, a people whose standards deserve respect and appreciation.

I salute you, O people. I love you O people. O Algerian people. Our blood is the same and our ideas are the same. I hope that tomorrow there will peace in this country.

The new president has to be at the level of those honorable and noble people, those people who have not disappointed us, those people who responded, and who will respond at all times whenever they are needed. Long live Algeria and long live peace. Thank you.

Expatriate Vote in France: Turnout 65%

LD1611225895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Let us listen to sister Fouzia who is going to give us some figures concerning the voting of the Algerian community here in France:

[Fouzia] Good evening. The number of Algerian expatriates in France registered in the vote registers is 636,238. The number of people who have voted is 416,983. The turnout is 65.53 percent. [passage omitted]

TV Program Shows Election in Progress

LD1611140795

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 16 November starts broadcasting a special news bulletin about the elections, giving correspondents' reports from various provinces.

At 0905 GMT the television shows a recording of candidate Liamine Zeroual casting his vote in Algiers, then shows members of the public voting and standing in line outside polling stations.

At 0920 GMT the announcer says: "The national government commission in charge of preparing the presidential elections yesterday issued a statement summing up all the operations and giving the final figures on the number of registered voters and the polling stations as you can see on the electronic cards on the screen.

"Thus the final number of registered voters is 15,965,364; the number of voters registered for the first time is 3,310,277; the number of registered voters living abroad is 707,439. The number of new voting cards and duplicates is 5,963,439; the number of polling stations is 32,877, including 1,977 mobile polling stations and 225 polling stations abroad. There are 7,916 polling centers [where ballot papers from neighboring stations are counted], including 116 centers abroad. The number of agents in charge of running the polling stations and centers is 370,000."

At 0928 GMT, a correspondent reports on the voting in Tizi Ouzou. After interviewing several members of the public, the correspondent says: "Representatives of the international delegations monitoring the elections were also present. Two Arab League representatives and two others from the Organization of African Unity [OAU] came to Tizi Ouzou. Out of the three polling centers which were visited by these international observers, two were in the town center and the third one was 20 km outside Tizi Ouzou."

The bulletin here carries the following interviews:

"[Unidentified OAU observer, in French] We notice that the equipment is here and that the people are ready to vote, and I have seen that in one or two polling stations people have already started to vote. This is really good. We are here at a center for women but I have not seen many women. This worries me a bit because I head the women's division at the OAU; therefore I would like to see women turn up to show that they are really interested in voting.

"[Unidentified Arab League observer] Matters seem to be going normally, just as they should be. There have been no complaints from the representatives of the four candidates. This is a good indication that things are going well.

"[Correspondent] Thank you.

"[Arab League observer] You are welcome."

The bulletin then returns to Algiers to show candidate Noureddine Boukrouh casting his vote in the company of his wife.

At 0940 GMT, the bulletin shows Prime Minister Sifi casting his vote in Algiers. Sifi says: "I must stress that today is the turn of the people to have their say and not the officials. I am speaking as a citizen. What is important to me is my participation as a citizen and my contribution as a citizen through voting in order to take the country out of this crisis. I am very happy and proud of what is taking place in my country and I stress, probably like every citizen, that this is the first time I am voting with more enthusiasm and more pride. I hope that this day will enable Algeria to come out of this crisis and will become a historic day which will be added to 1 November 1954."

After further reports from the provinces, at 0950 GMT, the announcer says: "We return to the capital with a live

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

dispatch by colleague Amar Bendjedda, who will inform us about the activities of the National Independent Commission in charge of Monitoring the Elections. Amar, good morning.

"[Amar] Good morning Fairouz and good morning Djamel. Dear viewers, good morning. As you can see, the commission members are in constant touch with all the provinces and with the provincial commissions present throughout the country. They are answering all queries and all concerns coming either from the national [as heard] commissions, members of the public, or from the administration. They are trying to take all the necessary measures regarding these complaints or the matters raised to them.

"As I said, we have with us the commission members, including Chaabane Zerouk, the commission rapporteur. He is now next to me and will try to assess the work of the commission members from these headquarters. Over to you Mr. Chaabane.

"[Chaabane] Thank you, Mr. Amar. First of all, greetings to the valiant people of Algeria and a happy democratic anniversary [as heard] to all. First, as you can see, the National Independent Commission in charge of Monitoring the Elections is busy getting in touch with the provincial commissions and with the provinces to follow up all matters linked to the presidential elections. Thanks to its provincial commissions, this commission is also endeavoring to resolve and settle all the difficulties and problems concerning the presidential elections, particularly with regard to the presence of candidates' representatives at polling stations and centers.

"Since this morning, we have been in touch with all the provinces in the country. A large turnout has been reported, and conditions are reported to be favorable. There is a normal atmosphere suitable for the running of this crucial and historic process in the history of the great people of Algeria.

"However, there have been some minor difficulties in some provinces. The main reason is that some representatives of candidates encountered some difficulties. These were settled and resolved thanks to the work of the provincial commissions.

"For example, in Algiers, at the polling centers of El Houria, Mohammedia, and Dar El Baida, the candidates' representatives this morning encountered some difficulties regarding their presence in these centers. In Constantine, the representatives also encountered some difficulties at the Assous Rabah polling center, but these have been resolved. There is also Khenchela — in the administrative district of Babar, there was an insufficient number of ballot papers for some candidates. This shortage has now been put right.

"In Ouargla Province, we have been informed that some citizens with a voting card did not find their names on the electoral rolls when they went to cast their vote. This shortcoming has been sorted out now.

"All in all, I can say, as I have already said, that the members of the national commission and the provincial commissions will endeavor and will do their utmost to ensure the success of this operation. We are convinced and persuaded that the Algerian people are know very well that today their sole right lies in carrying out their duty fully.

"God's peace be upon you and thank you.

"[Amar] Thank you, brother Chaabane. It is worth mentioning that the commission this morning sent some of its members to the provinces of Tipaza and Boumerdes to monitor the voting process there. Other members will be sent this afternoon to Blida and Algiers-Center."

At 1005 GMT, a correspondent reports briefly from the Interior Ministry, and says that no figures on the turnout at national level can be given at this stage.

The news bulletin ends at 1010 GMT.

Bomb Explodes in Tizi Ouzou; Elections Not Affected

LD1611124595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1210 GMT on 16 November carries the following correspondent's report from Tizi Ouzou: "There is a heavy turnout in the various municipalities of Tizi Ouzou, except Ain El Hammam, where the turnout has been moderate. No incidents have been reported, except that a home-made bomb exploded in the municipality of Ouassif. The bomb cracked a school wall, but did not delay the progress of the polling."

Since 1130 GMT on 16 November, the radio has been broadcasting reports on the polling in various parts of Algeria.

Egypt

'Militants' Promise To Avenge Leader's Death

NC1611124895 Paris AFP in English 1139 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 16 (AFP)—Egypt's main armed fundamentalist group, the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, on Thursday [16 November] claimed the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

murder of a rural policeman in al-Minya and promised more killings to avenge the death of one of its military leaders.

The al-Jama'ah said in a statement that its gunmen burst into the home of policeman Sha'ban Baqqush on Wednesday and shot him dead in front of his wife and children.

The murder "is a just revenge, under the law of retaliation, for the murder of the martyr 'Abd-al-Karim Abu al-Fadl," said the statement to a foreign press agency in Cairo.

Abu al-Fadl, shot by police on Sunday, was accused by the authorities of training a group of militants who carried out a failed bid to assassinate President Husni Mubarak in Ethiopia in June.

The al-Jama'ah described him as one of the leaders of its military wing who had operated in the troubled province of al-Minya for the past two years.

It said its fighters "pledged before God to avenge Abu al-Fadl, who left behind him men he trained himself who have promised to continue the struggle to end injustice and bring about the rule of religion."

The statement was headed: "We will make their blood flow in torrents," and said its militants were committed to "victory or martyrdom."

A total of 912 people have died since fundamentalists spearheaded by the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah launched a violent anti-government campaign in March 1992.

Mubarak Reportedly Planning To Replace Musa

TA1611185995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will be replaced soon. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that President Mubarak plans to appoint Musa secretary general of the Arab League. Musa will probably be replaced by Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, Egyptian ambassador to the United Nations, who played an important role in the Camp David accords.

Our correspondent says that Musa's attitude to the peace process has been the subject of sharp criticism in Egypt, other Arab states, the United States, and Israel.

Mubarak on Sudan's 'Allegations,' Diplomat's Murder

NC1611214195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has denied Sudan's allegations that there is agreement between Egypt and Uganda against it. He said this talk is absolutely untrue.

In a statement to AL-AKHBAR to be published tomorrow, Friday [17 November], President Mubarak said Egypt does not conspire with anyone as they do. He emphasized the need for Sudan to mend its relations with its neighbors for the good of the Sudanese people. President Mubarak said the current situation in Sudan will not facilitate this task. Sudan, he added, has problems with Egypt, Uganda, and all the surrounding countries, noting that these problems cause enormous suffering for the Sudanese people. We are concerned about the Sudanese people, not the rulers, he remarked.

Commenting on the assassination of an Egyptian diplomat in Geneva, he said: I cannot say anything now. Investigations are under way in Switzerland now and I do not want to anticipate the investigation.

Mubarak on Peace Process, 'Terrorism,' Elections

NC1611145395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Report on interview with President Husni Mubarak by unidentified LE MONDE correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated text] Paris, 16 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has reasserted the need to continue the Middle East peace process in the interest of the prosperity of all the region's people. In a statement to the French newspaper LE MONDE to be published on 17 November, he stressed the importance of meticulously implementing the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. He warned that failure to implement the agreement would be disastrous. He stressed that there is also a need to resume the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, noting that he is seeking to achieve this and stressed that the obstacles must be overcome. Discussing normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel, President Mubarak said: We are encouraging the people to work with the Israelis but we cannot force them to do so because we are a democratic state. He noted that things are currently improving.

President Mubarak again warns the countries that shelter terrorists that they will pay a heavy price. He said that if these countries want to hand over terrorists, Egypt will receive them and bring those who committed crimes

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to court. He noted that not all these extremists are Egyptian.

Regarding Amnesty International's stance that regrets the deterioration of human rights in Egypt, President Mubarak stressed that Egypt does not break the law and that anyone can appeal to the judiciary, noting that Amnesty International seeks propaganda.

Discussing the participation of opposition parties in the 29 November elections, even though they refrained from participating in the previous elections, President Mubarak said that no one prevented them from participating in the past. On the contrary, he added, we asked them repeatedly to take part in the elections but some parties lacked cadres, which is a technical problem.

The following is the text of the interview:

[LE MONDE] Why did the opposition parties decide to participate in the 29 November People's Assembly elections even though they did not take part in the previous elections?

[Mubarak] No one forbade them from participating before. On the contrary, we repeatedly asked them to participate, but some of them lacked cadres, which is a technical problem.

[LE MONDE] You have been tolerant with the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] over the past 15 years. Why have you imprisoned many MB members recently?

[Mubarak] They want to form a religious party, which is against the law. I personally have not changed, but they have changed. They assassinated two prime ministers and a finance minister before the [23 July] revolution. Then, they feigned backing the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and attempted to assassinate him in Alexandria. If President al-Sadat did not move against them at the beginning of his rule, it was because his priority was restoring the occupied territories. However, they killed him. The MB, the Jihad, the Islamic Group, and so on and so forth, are all the same; their behavior contradicts the basic teachings of Islam and the Koran.

[LE MONDE] Do you think that some Muslim extremists have found havens in European countries?

[Mubarak] I cannot understand the stance of countries like Britain, Germany, and others, which grant political asylum to criminals. One day they will pay a heavy price. Officials in these countries are trying to find a solution. If they want to hand over the terrorists, we will receive them and bring those who committed crimes to court, but not all these extremists are Egyptian.

[LE MONDE] Amnesty International recently said it regretted the deterioration of human rights in Egypt and noted an increase in the number of people dying in jails.

[Mubarak] The inmates were detained according to the law. Amnesty International seeks propaganda. We cannot break the law, as any individual can go to court. We do not intervene in the judicial system. Seventy officers have been referred to the court on charges of violating human rights and we did not intervene in this case. The judiciary acquitted them. Look at human rights in Iran and Iraq or ask about the Israeli attitude toward the Palestinians. But no one cares about this. Raising the issue of human rights is aimed at destabilizing particular countries.

[LE MONDE] It has been 14 years since you assumed power, why do you refuse to appoint a vice president even though you yourself occupied this post during President al-Sadat's era?

[Mubarak] The Constitution defines precisely the procedures of succession. In the absence of a president, the People's Assembly speaker assumes the post of acting president for 60 days. If there is no speaker, the Higher Court president assumes the post for 60 days.

[LE MONDE] Do you believe that there is no use in choosing a vice president?

[Mubarak] No. I am just waiting to find the proper person. People in my country have said: "There is as little need to choose a vice president as there is to choose a crown prince." Views differ but I am waiting for the proper time to choose the proper man.

[LE MONDE] Why is the liberalization of the Egyptian economy proceeding slowly? What is the policy on the devaluation of the Egyptian pound?

[Mubarak] Forget forever the question of the Egyptian pound devaluation. Look at what happened in Mexico and elsewhere. Even the IMF has agreed to drop this issue. If I devalue the pound, then there will be a catastrophe because prices will soar and the people's suffering will increase. I will then have to increase wages and find the necessary funds to pay the debts. All this will mean more taxes and hence more poverty.

[LE MONDE] What is your stand on privatization?

[Mubarak] Privatization should proceed at a suitable rate so that workers would not be harmed. The press says that we have to achieve this within three years. I reply: This is impossible, otherwise we would find ourselves in the same position that Russia is in now.

[LE MONDE] Why did you hesitate in participating in Yitzhaq Rabin's funeral?

[Mubarak] The Israeli prime minister attended the funeral of President al-Sadat when the latter was assassinated. The Israeli president travelled to Cairo the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

next day. Thus when Yitzhaq Rabin was assassinated, I thought it was my duty to take part in his funeral. No one forced me to do so. I simply waited to see the composition of the delegations coming from all over the world. As soon as I learned that Presidents Chirac and Clinton and the leaders of other states and governments were attending, I decided to personally attend it.

[LE MONDE] Why does normalization between Egypt and Israel appear to be slow to this degree?

[Mubarak] We signed a peace agreement. We are encouraging the people to work with the Israelis but we cannot force them to do so. We are a democratic state. But things are better now and many people travel to Israel. Some have set up joint projects with Israelis, who are also participating in the private sector's agricultural projects.

[LE MONDE] Why does normalization between Israel and Jordan appear to be quicker?

[Mubarak] Jordan's population is three million. There are 60 million in our country. Meetings between Israel and Jordan began a long time ago, in addition to the existence of special ties between them because the kingdom shelters many Palestinians. Contacts between the River Jordan's two banks are constant.

[LE MONDE] Is the Israeli-Arab peace process proceeding along the right path?

[Mubarak] The peace process must continue for the sake of the prosperity of all the peoples in the region. The agreement between Israel and the Palestinians must be implemented to the letter because any retraction would be a catastrophe. Shim'on Peres is a pragmatist. Rabin succeeded in breaking the deadlock in the most difficult, complicated, and dangerous Middle East problem, namely the Palestinian issue.

As to Israeli-Syrian negotiations, they must be resumed. I am seeking to bring this about. There are obstacles that must be overcome and problems could be resolved if both sides show some flexibility. I believe that Syria is opposed to the establishment of early warning systems on their territory. There must be some technological means for overcoming this difficulty.

[LE MONDE] What could be done to end the Iraqi people's suffering?

[Mubarak] A way must be found to help. These people cannot be abandoned and left to die from starvation if Saddam Husayn remains in power for another 10 or 15 years. The international community will be making a mistake if it does so. Hence, it must find a way to help the people, otherwise the latter will go crazy.

[LE MONDE] Will the presidential elections in Algeria allow a way out from the chaos in that country?

[Mubarak] Let us wait. I hope that the elections will put an end to the violence.

[LE MONDE] Is it wise to link economic aid to political reforms?

[Mubarak] Such a link might be wrong in some cases. Aid is given to help the people and finance projects so that people can create job opportunities in their country. France has established very good relations with Algeria and it cannot abandon it during these difficult times.

Women Candidates Discuss Issues, 'Competition'

NC1711072595 Paris AFP in English 0042 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 17 (AFP)—Women candidates in Egypt's parliamentary elections have decided that a rights platform is a losing ticket and are instead focusing on the issue of poverty.

The 4,000 candidates running in the vote set for November 29 include only 35 women: seven from the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), seven from opposition ranks, and the rest independents.

"If I run on women's rights, I'm sure to lose," Sawsan al-Kilani, an NDP member running for re-election in Ismailia, north of Cairo, told AFP.

"The key problems for women are first of all poverty and unemployment, not whether to ban polygamy or easy divorces," said al-Kilani, who has served 20 years in parliament.

"The question of democracy is secondary compared to the problems of hunger, housing, drinking water and medical care, from which women suffer most," said Fathiyah al-'Assal, a Marxist candidate in the Cairo slum of Imbabah.

Even an issue such as illiteracy — from which an average 65 percent or adult women suffer compared to 34 percent of adult men — is seen as "relatively minor," said Layla Hasan, an independent.

"When people are dying of hunger, just try to run a campaign against illiteracy or to talk of subjects like the right to give citizenship to children of Egyptian women married to foreigners," Hasan said.

"There are other more pressing issues."

"Poverty is a real problem," said Layla 'Abd-al-Wahhab, who is standing as an independent in the rural area of Banha, north of Cairo.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"Fifty percent of children leave school because they don't have the means to buy books and paper. The policy of compulsory education isn't enough if free education is not guaranteed," 'Abd-al-Wahhab said.

"The low participation of intellectuals (as candidates) and the failure of the middle-class to register to vote means that most voters are poor," she said.

"Since competition is so fierce, women have to chose social topics and exclude any reference to democracy or legislative reforms" for womens' rights, 'Abd-al-Wahhab said.

Rawiyah 'Atiyah, who in 1956 became Egypt and the Arab world's first woman MP, was sorry that "women's representation in parliament is in decline in Egypt. The Egyptian woman has not been able to hold on to her rights."

The number of women in parliament varied from six to eight until 1979 when former president Anwar al-Sadat ordered 32 seats set aside for them. But the quota was later ruled unconstitutional and eliminated.

The last parliament included 10 women, three of whom were appointed by the president, who names 10 of the body's 454 seats.

"We women have the easiest and most direct contact with voters," 'Assal said. "In Egypt every home's doors are open to a woman, which is not always the case for a man."

But women candidates must also face the opposition of Islamic radicals who tear down their posters and break up their meetings, shouting slogans such as, "Cursed is a community led by a woman," a quote from the Prophet Muhammad.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saudi Arabia

Third 'Militant' Group Claims Riyadh Attack

NC1711091195 Paris AFP in English 0848 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 17 (AFP)—A third militant group has announced responsibilty for the bombing of a US military building in Riyadh which left six dead, the Egyptian opposition paper AL-SHA'B reported on Friday [17 November].

AL-SHA'B, an Islamist paper that appears twice weekly, published a statement from a group called "Ansar Allah" (Partisans of God) promising more attacks until all Americans left Saudi soil.

Monday's bombing "came with the grace of God almighty as part of our Jihad to achieve our demands," the statement said.

"You Americans, our blessed activity will not cease until our demands are met. If they are not, you place yourselves in a war in which there is no mercy," the group said.

The bombing, which also injured over 60, has already been claimed by two other previously unknown groups, the Islamic Movement for Change and the Tigers of the Gulf.

AL-SHA'B said Ansar Allah had claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Israeli embassy in Argentina in 1992.

The paper did not say when or how it received the Ansar Allah statement.

The group demanded the removal of all "occupying US troops" from Saudi Arabia, the immmediate release of "all prisoners in Saudi jails", the "lifting of all restrictions by Saudi Arabia on Muslim clergy" and "the implementation of Islamic Shari'ah law."

It also demanded the liberation of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the blind Egyptian radical cleric, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Musa Abu-Marzuq, and a third militant Ramzi Yusuf, "all held in American prisons."

Economic, Political Impact of Bombing Dismissed

MM1611161695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "Who Will Pay for the Blast?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I remember an amusing story I heard about a debate that took place once in the U.S. Congress. The members were debating an issue touching on relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and when one of them said that the government there refused to cooperate on some issue that he specified, another stood up and shouted: "Since it is like that, let us stop giving them aid." Of course, Saudi Arabia does not receive any aid — something our friend was not aware of!

This applies to comments that some people have made about the Riyadh blast. I told one of them that the repercussions are psychological, but he insisted that the economic impact will be great. I promised him that time would prove him wrong. He then explained that the troubles and violence in Egypt have had some impact there, and that was why there could be a similar effect.

Of course, we cannot compare a few isolated incidents to major organized ones. However, from a financial perspective Saudi Arabia is not a country whose economy relies on tourism, and presumably it would not be affected by one or even ten blasts. Also, its does not depend on outside investments like most states in the region, but instead the prime motivator of investment there is the government. Direct foreign investment is estimated at only $3 billion, alongside $12 billion in local investments, mostly government incentives, so how could they be affected by one blast? Finally, and along the same lines, the Kuwait invasion crisis, the Gulf war, and seven months of danger did not increase the dollar rate, nor did it reduce the volume of local investments, nor did it stop the momentum of local development, so how could a blast do that?

The real impact is psychological and short-lived. People are affected by these incidents without being directly hurt. This is normal and commensurate with the incident. A car bomb exploding in the center of a large city cannot be met with acceptance or indifference. The psychological reaction against it and against its perpetrators is undeniably negative.

Most talk of economic and political repercussions from the Riyadh blast contradicts logic and facts. The example is in what I mentioned earlier about economic repercussions, for which I find no justification in this prediction. Neither imports nor exports can be affected. The situation for oil is entirely different because, if its price does not rise for the better, which would be a positive consequence of an action meant to harm, it will certainly not be affected in any other way. I do not find even a trace of political impact in this action. Its only effect is to convince those who are still unconvinced to reject violence and its logic.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Riyadh Bombing Called Part of 'Wave of Violence'

MM1611164295 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "An Explosion Beyond Riyadh"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The explosions, violent incidents, and assassinations which are these days sweeping the Arab region, excluding none of its states regardless of their ideological and political affiliations, confirm that something abnormal is being planted in the region — something that the Arab body is rejecting despite the local and imported drugs which are used to try to firmly establish it by force and to destroy any resistance against it.

It is no coincidence that the Riyadh explosion which targeted a camp used by the Americans coincided with the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin; the Ugandan invasion of Sudan; the uncovering of an attempt to kill Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat; the escalation of the pattern of violence in Egypt, Algeria, and north Iraq; and the return of unrest to Bahrain.

Nothing similar to this wave of violence, assassinations, and car bombs has ever happened before in the history of the region. Who would have believed that the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was more coherent and stable and had fewer enemies, would one day wake up to the sound of explosions? Who would have dreamt that Yitzhaq Rabin would turn into a pan-Arab hero and a peace legend whose departure is more lamented by the Arabs than the Jews themselves?!

If it is true that the nature of regimes determines the shape of the opposition, the Arab oppositions we are experiencing are a true reflection of the regimes and their repressive practices, resisting any change and preventing any natural development toward democratic reforms, which have dominated the world as a whole but stopped at the gate of the Middle East.

Arab oppositions are either corrupt and, like their regimes, linked to foreign powers, or bloodthirsty and miserable because they are denied all means of expression in their countries, and thus they use violence as a means to prove their existence and draw attention to their peoples' grievances. It is a regrettable classification that reflects the scale of the collapse dominating the region and threatening to fragment it and drown it in chaos.

Regrettably, the Riyadh explosion, like any similar explosions, leads in one way or another to handing internal security to the Americans, just as Washington — through its extensive and permanent military presence — is in charge of Arab Gulf external security now.

This means opening new doors to the plundering of resources and the signing of internal security contracts along the lines of the external defense contracts.

What is more regrettable is that Arab regimes deal with these violent incidents from a security angle only, refusing to try to understand their causes and political roots. They find support and backing from the United States and other Western states for this defective orientation. Because they [the Western states] — despite their claims about democracy — do not want to deal with elected regimes accountable to parliaments, since this would conflict with their interests and aims as regard economic and political hegemony and work for their arms factories, which have entered a deadly recession phase since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

Confronting violence and those behind it cannot be achieved by intensifying security measures or allocating huge financial rewards to anyone providing information about the perpetrators, but, rather, by returning to the nation's national fixed principles of bolstering national sovereignty; reducing, if not resisting, foreign hegemony; rehabilitating joint Arab action; and restoring usurped rights.

The Arab region urgently needs an Arab nationalist plan to unite it and stop it from slipping fast toward an abyss. The violence phenomenon would decline when such a plan existed. Suffice it to point out that Egypt witnessed a brilliant truce and rare national unity when its regime confronted normalization, espoused an Arab and international campaign for the dismantling of Israel's nuclear weapons, and refused to extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Here is the truce collapsing and the cycle of violence escalating because the regime has returned to its role of leading the region toward normalization and defective peace agreements before the restoration of legitimate Arab rights and the implementation of UN resolutions in full, as is the case in Iraq.

Arab regimes neglected the situation in Iraq, and some of them thought — wrongly — that continuing the blockade to suffocate Iraq, its people, and its regime is the guarantee of stability. But they have discovered how wrong they were. The Gulf region has never in its history experienced any dangers, troubles, tensions, and splits like the ones it is experiencing now as a result of the blockade imposed on Iraq and the presence of U.S. forces on their territory.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The "imported" U.S. forces might be able to achieve external security and prevent an alleged invasion, but certainly they cannot achieve internal security. In fact they could become a factor for disrupting social peace and spark off domestic conflicts. The events in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait are merely preliminary examples of this.

The Riyadh explosion — despite our condemnation of it — should prompt a comprehensive Arab revision not of security measures, but the policies applied through repression toward citizens inside and outside the country and their legitimate demands as regards social justice and democratic freedoms, and also toward surrounding Arab peoples: namely, by understanding their needs as regards the distribution of wealth. Because it is illogical for the rich Arab states to spend tens of billions of dollars to create jobs for unemployed Americans and Europeans through arms deals, while Arab citizens in Bahrain (and by the way, it is a Gulf state), Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, and Morocco are starving or dying during their desperate attempts to set sail in search of a job opportunity in Europe's restaurants and bars, when there are millions of Asian and Korean workers in the Gulf states.

Newspapers Deplore 'Vicious' Explosion in Riyadh

LD1611185395 Riyadh SPA in English
1240 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Riyadh, Nov 16, SPA — The Saudi newspapers deplored today the vicious explosion incident which took place in Riyadh on Monday. Under the title of 'security is the responsibility of all citizens' AL-RIYAD newspaper said the secret war, fueled by criminals and terrorists, has started to take new dimensions in a way that makes it impossible for any country to remain unaffected by it. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia cannot remain isolated from what happens in the other parts of the world, but it would be better for all citizens to realize the fact that 'security is the responsibility of all'. The citizen should positively contribute to combatting crimes and ensuring the pillars of security and stability in his country, the paper added.

Al-Dammam-based AL-YAWM said those who dislike light and truth work in darkness. For the first time the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the big house of the Arabs, witnessed explosions when the Iraqi regime directed its missiles towards the kingdom during the Gulf war, said the paper and added 'following the Gulf war the kingdom remained calm until the vicious criminal explosion took place in Riyadh on Monday'. The righteous anger against this criminal act inside and outside the kingdom has provided a clear evidence that the criminals belong to an isolated and discarded group, the daily noted. The citizens who announced their readiness to make sacrifice for the sake of their country during the Iraqi vicious occupation of Kuwait, are now raising their voice to condemn this detestable and criminal act, the paper added.

On the same topic al-Dammam-based AL-YAWM said the crime that took place in Riyadh on Monday should be a turning point in the security behaviour of the citizens and residents, and added 'this country is a target of the evil elements who have been doing their best to undermine its stability and security.'

Under the title of 'Let us be guards of security and stability' Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said it has become an essential matter for the citizen and resident to undertake their responsibility towards the protection of the country from those who work in the darkness.

Pointing out to the worldwide reaction over the explosion incident, 'UKAZ, which is also published in Jeddah, said this reaction has proved that the kingdom is a country of important political weight. The kingdom has earned the respect of the world because it does not constitute a source of problem or anxiety to any country and at the same time it has been adopting a wise and rational policy taking into account the importance of respecting the others and cooperating with them, the daily elaborated. With the grace of the Almighty Allah we are capable of confronting all challenges and standing against those who try to undermine our stability.

Mecca-based AL-NADWAH said the Saudi society is a coherent and peaceful society. The kingdom does not resort to violence, but it resorts for dialogue even with the enemies, said the daily. The open-door policy being adopted by the Saudi rulers reflects the existing coherence between the rulers and the citizens, added the daily. The spiteful elements who try to undermine the kingdom's security will never realize their evil goals, the daily noted.

Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH, commenting on the establishment of a chair for Islamic studies after the name of Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz at Moscow University, said the kingdom, in line with the directives of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, is keen on shouldering its historical responsiblity towards the service of Islam and Muslims. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saddam Reportedly Dismisses Half Brother as Security Chief

MM1611124395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by 'Imad Furayh: "Iraqi President Dismisses His Half Brother From Public Security Director Post"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, London — Iraqis arriving in the Jordanian capital yesterday said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has dismissed his half brother Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Hasan from his post as director of public security in Iraq, while others said that an adviser to the president and a director general at the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry have fled the country.

The information provided in this connection, which has not been supported by independent sources, says that the Iraqi president has appointed Sa'd al-Yasin as acting director general of public security in place of al-Hasan. Al-Yasin is the brother of the Iraqi president's former aide and brother-in-law Arshad al-Yasin and Ba'th Party Regional Command member Kamil al-Yasin. They are all relatives of Saddam Husayn and come from al-'Awjah village, birthplace of the Iraqi president in Salah al-Din [Tikrit] Governorate.

The information did not explain the reasons for not announcing through the media the decision to dismiss Sab'awi al-Hasan from his post. The information has been supported by Iraqi opposition sources in London. But these sources stated that al-Najaf Governor 'Ali al-Sa'dun has been appointed successor to al-Hasan.

While one of Watban al-Hasan's brothers (Barzan al-Tikriti) holds the post of Iraqi representative to the UN headquarters in Geneva, Sab'awi al-Hasan's third brother was interior minister, but he was dismissed in July. In early August Watban was seriously wounded in a shooting incident involving 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president's eldest son. According to recent information, the Cuban medical team brought to Baghdad to treat Watban had to amputate his leg, which was badly damaged in the incident.

As is known, all security and intelligence organs in Iraq are directly supervised by Qusayy Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president's youngest son, who is head of the special security organ.

Meanwhile, other information has indicated that 'Iyadah Kan'an al-Sudayd, former adviser to the Iraqi president for Salah al-Din (Tikrit), has fled to Syria, joining his brother Hawwas al-Sudayd, one of the Shamar tribes' chiefs who defected to Syria last month. 'Iyadah al-Sudayd was a close friend of the Iraqi president.

The information added that a Culture and Information Ministry official, who was sent on an official mission outside Iraq some time ago, has not returned to the country. The sources believe the Iraqi official may have preferred to defect to an Arab or foreign state.

PUK Spokesman on Talks With U.S. Delegation

NC1611155795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on meetings between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the guest U.S. delegation led by Robert Deutsch, a PUK spokesman stated that the meetings are proceeding positively and that both sides voiced their views on finding a solution to the differences between the PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

The spokesman added that the PUK hopes that positive results would be reached during these meetings in order to restore real peace to Kurdistan so that the Kurdish people can enjoy stability and security.

PUK Official Criticizes U.S. Mediation

NC1611202895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] issued a statement saying that the U.S. delegation has held separate contacts with the two warring Iraqi Kurdish parties in Salah al-Din in northern Iraq. To shed more light on this, we contacted Patriotic Union of Kurdistan member Samir Shurash and asked him about this issue. Here is what went on in the telephone contact:

[Begin recording] [Jihad al-'Idan] Mr. Sami Shurash. You said in your statement that the U.S. delegation has held talks with the PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] in Salah al-Din. Can you brief us about these talks?

[Shurash] As you know, the Americans have been mediating for some time to end the Kurdish infighting in Iraq's Kurdistan. Their efforts resulted in two rounds which were held in Dublin several months ago. These rounds did not lead to any concrete results other than a truce that is holding to this date. No political agreement was reached. The Americans underlined their desire to continue the mediation and the PUK and the KDP accepted. On the PUK's part, we have shown from the time when the fighting began to this day our readiness to accept any mediation from any party that sincerely wishes to end the infighting, restore peace, and return the situation back to normal in Iraq's Kurdistan. The two rounds failed for known reasons. The two parties

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

did not reach a political agreement and the differences have remained, specially the difference over the Turkish stand. It appears that the Americans have resumed their efforts and this time wanted to come to Iraq's Kurdistan to hold talks on the ground. What characterizes the current round of talks is that the Americans decided to start by contacting the two sides separately at first with the aim of reaching with each a clear concept of peace and hence bring them together around the negotiating table so as to reach an agreement. No detailed information has so far been leaked about the negotiations. But I can generally say on behalf of the PUK that our observations are as follows:

Any peace in Iraq's Kurdistan should have two objectives:

1. Returning the situation to normal and restoration of normal life and activities to Iraq's Kurdistan, that is, restoration of peace to Iraq's Kurdistan.

2. Consolidation of the national alliance of the Iraqi opposition and intensification of the Iraqi struggle against Saddam Husayn's regime.

If peace is not established on these two principles, then we believe that it will be a time-bomb peace, fragile, and not able to survive for long.

Our delegation and our leadership are underlining the need for a lasting type of peace in these talks. [end recording]

We believe that the mission of the U.S. delegation is not aimed at establishing peace and ending the dispute between the two Kurdish parties. Washington is rather trying to boost its influence by employing the struggle between the two parties. According to U.S. press circles, the United States is concerned over what it calls the Iranian role in Iraq's Kurdistan in a bid to distort Iran's mediation efforts between the two parties. The Iranian mediation made big strides. Therefore, the U.S. delegation's mission is aimed at impeding the Iranian mediation.

We asked Sami Shurash a question in this regard. The following is a recording of the conversation that took place with him:

[Begin recording] [al-'Idan] Mr. Sami, we know that the Islamic Republic in Iran is playing a mediation role. We also believe that Iran has made a big stride on the road of concluding an agreement between the two parties. Will the Americans' efforts affect the Iranian mediation, given what I had heard over the Voice of America to the effect that the Americans are worried over the Iranian mediation, though without naming it, between the two Kurdish parties.

[Shurash] The Americans have their own radio to reflect their ideas. As regards the PUK, we harbor a great respect for the Iranian stance concerning the mediation efforts to establish peace in Iraq's Kurdistan. We responded in due time to this mediation. The PUK dispatched its delegation to Iran two or three times. We expressed our full readiness to reach a genuine peace with the other party through an Iranian mediation. No doubt, the Iranian officials who supervised the talks can attest to this. But the other side, namely the KDP, refrained to have direct talks with our representatives and that is why the Tehran talks failed to achieve tangible results. We are still committed to our position. Our doors are wide open for all good initiatives, including the Iranian initiative. We are prepared to make any efforts for the sake of achieving peace. As you know, the internal fighting will deeply affect the Kurdish language and people. The Kurdish people and the Iraqi opposition have been harmed. The Iraqi regime is the sole party which benefited from the continuous fighting. Therefore, it would be in our interest if the fighting is halted. We want the fighting to stop whether through a Kurdish mediation, or an Iraqi mediation, or an Iranian mediation, or a regional mediation, or even through an American mediation. Our main concern is to see that the fighting is halted. How the Americans interpret the Iranian mediation is their concern. We respect this stand and we intend to continue with all the mediation efforts.

[Al-'Idan] But in my understanding, the Americans are not interested in stability in the north or ending the fighting between the two Kurdish parties. They only want to employ this to establish their influence in the north. What can you say?

[Shurash] As is known, the United States is a member of the international coalition which defends Kurdistan against Saddam Husayn's acts of aggressions. The U.S. forces which are charged with this mission are deployed in Turkey. It is difficult to defend Kurdistan against Saddam's attacks if there is not an international force that can deter Saddam Husayn. Accordingly, we harbor respect to our friends, and I mean anyone who tries to defend our people and cut the hands of Saddam Husayn if he interferes in Kurdistan's affairs. Therefore, we are not a party in the U.S. plans that you just mentioned. We are just want to be protected against Saddam Husayn's attacks. We thank anyone who can provide us with this protection whether it is Iran, America, Turkey, or any European, Islamic, or Arab country. We believe that peace in Iraq's Kurdistan would defend us and would keep Kurdistan away from becoming an arena for struggle and foreign influence. No doubt, during times of peace, all countries, including the United States does not consolidate its influence. But such influence

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

would be augmented during wars and internal fighting and chaos. Therefore, I differ with you over this point.

[Al-'Idan] Thank you.

[Shurash] You are welcome. [end recording]

KDP Issues Statement on Talks With U.S. Delegates

JN1611191895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Nov 95

["Text" of press statement issued by the KDP delegation "to brief citizens on the progress of and latest developments" in talks with the U.S. delegation; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Press statement issued by the KDP [Kurdistan Democratic Party] delegation:

On 16 November 1995, talks continued in a positive atmosphere between our party's delegation and the U.S. delegation, which is supervising the negotiations between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] to achieve peace in Kurdistan.

The talks dealt with the main topics on the agenda with the aim of finding useful solutions. These topics are:

1. Turning Irbil into a secure city free of arms.
2. The region's revenues.
3. The return of legitimacy through the convening of the parliament; forming a new government; and returning citizens's property.
4. Comprehensive normalization.
5. The neutral body and its tasks.
6. The coming elections.

Our party is trying hard to reach a solution. It is also offering the necessary sacrifices to turn the current truce into a firm, permanent peace for our people who deserve this peace to put our country on the path of stability and progress.

Kurdish Councils Condemn 'Blatant U.S. Interference'

JN1611195195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The [pro-government] Legislative and Executive Councils of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region have condemned the blatant American interference in Iraq's internal affairs. In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, a source at both councils condemned the illegal entry into the Kurdistan region by Robert Deutsch, chief of the Northern Gulf Affairs Desk at the U.S. State Department. The source reaffirmed that this hostile act is targeting Iraq's security, stability, and sovereignty and aims at encouraging the prevailing chaos in the area. The source described the act as a clear expression of U.S. hostility against our Iraqi people. The source said that the Iraqi people are confident in the inevitable return of the Kurdistan region to the motherland under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

Daily Criticizes Deutsch's Entry Into Kurdistan

JN1611131295 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 16, INA—An Iraqi daily has said the United States has been the patron of rebellion in the (Kurdish) Autonomous Region of northern Iraq.

In an article on Thursday, AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said it is nothing for America to hold contacts with rebels in northern Iraq and to block any effort to restore stability, security and stability to the region

The paper was commenting on recent contacts between a senior U.S. department official and Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq. The official, head of the northern Gulf section Robert Deutsch, entered the area illegally in violation of Iraq's sovereignty.

Contacts and consultations have never ceased since the (U.S.-led) aggression against Iraq, said AL-THAWRAH, adding that the United States has pursued the policy of intervention, piracy and muscle-flexing through what has been termed the force hammer [as received] as well as various slogans that aim to blackmail Iraq and destroy its national unity and social fabric.

AL-THAWRAH said this is not, however, the first time that a senior U.S. official would sneak into the north like thieves and meet with rebels in the name of the American Government.

It added that the U.S. move reflects a state of growing confusion by the American Administration that failed to achieve its goals. The Kurds have gained nothing but bloodshed and chaos from the U.S role in the area, said the daily.

The fresh American move falls within attempts to exert more pressure to maintain control over the Kurdish region and to block Kurdish parties' return to the national fold, commented AL-THAWRAH.

The move follows new developments that have strong indications, it said, adding that the first of these developments is the heavy blow dealt by the people of Iraq to their enemies when they voted "yes" to President Saddam Husayn in the referendum of October 15.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The second development is the increasing call for Arab reconciliation and for the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq, and this has angered America and its lackeys.

The wounds of the north will not be healed without the restoration of legitimate authority, ending the rebellion and rejecting foreign intervention in the region, said AL-THAWRAH.

It concluded that the Kurdish people's awareness will foil schemes promoted by America and its servants.

Turkish Delegation Arrives for Talks With KDP

LD1611161895 Tehran IRNA in English 1314 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mahabad, W. Azarbaijan Prov., Nov. 16, IRNA — A Turkish Foreign Ministry delegation arrived in the northern Iraqi city of Salah al-Din Wednesday [15 November] to resume talks with leader of the Iraqi Kurdistan's Democratic Party (KDP), Mas'ud Barzani.

The KDP radio monitored here reported that the Turkish delegation, composed of several officials from the Turkish Foreign Ministry, held talks with Barzani the same day.

Bilateral relations as well as conditions in Iraq's Kurdistan were reviewed in the meeting, the radio added.

Saddam Discusses Environmental Pollution

JN1611210695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has said that environmental pollution is a major international concern, and that it poses a heavy burden to the population of industrial nations. He said that the environment in Iraq is generally clean, but unless strict controls are introduced immediately to prevent the pollution of the environment and the rivers, then we will be in the same state as the European and U.S. societies. He said rivers there are not only polluted, but also contain toxic substances which have destroyed the water life.

His excellency said: The use of rivers in Iraq is not like the use of rivers in Europe and the United States. For thousands of years, the Iraqis have invented irrigation networks to irrigate their crops from the rivers. They have also been using the rivers for swimming and home purposes. Unlike here, rivers in Europe, for example, are not used for irrigation or for providing drinking water. Therefore, keeping our rivers clean of industrial and other kinds of pollution must be one of our central concerns. All those concerned at the socialist, mixed, and private industrial sectors, as well as the health, agricultural, education and higher education, information, and other sectors should pay attention to this issue. Awareness should be increased and spread extensively among the state agencies and citizens.

Those important remarks were made by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, during the Council of Ministers' 40th session, which was held under his excellency's chairmanship. The Council of Ministers discussed the topic of environmental and water pollution contained in a report prepared by a special committee. After debates, the Council of Ministers decided to refer the study to the industrial committee to lay down the necessary programs and measures that achieve tangible results with minimum costs under the circumstances of the unfair blockade. The committee will also plan for other programs to be implemented after the lifting of the blockade or be developed according to Iraq's technological capabilities.

The leader president ordered that in view of its importance, this topic will be looked into by the Council of Ministers again.

Among the topics listed on the agenda of the Council of Ministers were the report and proposals of the committee that the leader president, may God watch over him, ordered be set up under Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan at the 36th session on 27 August 1995. The committee discussed the distribution of reclaimed agricultural lands in the Maysan, al-Basrah, and Dhi Qar Governorates among the inhabitants of those regions and extending administrative, agricultural, and irrigation facilities to them. After debates, the Council of Ministers approved the raised proposals.

Afterward, the Council of Ministers discussed a report presented by a ministerial committee under Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. The formation of the committee was ordered by the leader president, may God watch over him, at the 34th session on 3 August 1995. Its aim is to discuss the reformation of ministries' councils. After debates, amendments were introduced into the committee's proposals. It was stressed that those councils, according to the instructions of the leader president, should discuss raised topics with complete freedom and that no member should be held accountable for his views. This is in accordance with the principle of consultation, democracy, and collective action. The proposals that have been approved included the principles, powers, and general and special jurisdictions.

The Council of Ministers also studied a report submitted by the special committee, the formation of which was

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ordered by the leader president at the 36th session on 17 September 1995. Its aims is to lay down the principles and specify the incentives for those who contribute to informing about and finding stolen private property or apprehending the thieves. That will apply to both citizens and investigation committees so as to expand the base of popular participation in combating thefts. After debates, the Council of Ministers approved the proposals and principles, and recommended that they be referred to the National Assembly.

Family Animosity Said Continuing in Leadership

96LH0005A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Oct 95 pp 20-21

[Report by Riyad 'Alam-al-Din]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicosia—Has the fire Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam set in Saddam Husayn's house spread to their own house in Amman? Have the two defecting brothers been convinced that their move was a step into the unknown and will pay a dear price for it? Reports from Amman confirm this. They also confirm that the sisters, Raghad and Rana Saddam Husayn, are now convinced that they had been deceived and want to return home. The younger brother, Saddam Kamil, also believes that he was lured into an uncalculated move. His brother, the organizer of the big defection operation, is now convinced that his plan has failed. He has begun thinking of announcing his repentance and returning home, even if the gallows are awaiting him in Baghdad.

This is the summary of reports certain circles in the West have directly received from Jordan and from the close circle of people around Husayn and Saddam Kamil and their wives, Raghad and Rana Saddam Husayn.

According to these reports, tension is brewing between the two defecting families in Amman—Raghad and Husayn and Rana and Saddam. Raghad and Rana have formed a counter-front to their husbands, supported by some of their escorts, who did not know what happened until they arrived in Amman.

Saddam's daughters, according to this information, did not understand the implications of their husbands' actions until it was too late. At first, they did not know the reasons, motives, or aims, and, therefore, did not realize the consequences. However, other sources say that the two wives knew about the defection plan but failed to understand the serious repercussions inside Saddam's family. These repercussions were much greater than they had imagined.

Parallel to the strong reactions in Baghdad against the defectors, disappointment increased the torment of the two wives. Reports say that the two daughters perhaps dreamed of moving up with their husbands to the highest echelon in the Iraqi government, but their brother 'Udayy's domination of the power tools had frustrated their hopes. Therefore, they agreed to move to Amman as a step toward gaining direct authority. However, Arab, international, and Iraqi opposition indifference toward them has turned them into refugees outside their country. Their isolation added to their weariness.

According to these reports, the two daughters are suffering from depression and are on the verge of nervous breakdowns. Raghad, the wife of Husayn Kamil, had sent a secret message with one of her confidants to her mother, Sajidah, explaining the situation and asking her to suggest a reasonable solution to their thorny problem. The answer she received was discouraging and disappointing and increased her fears. Sajidah felt that she was personally stabbed by her daughters. She was disappointed with them, particularly since she had played a big role in Raghad's marriage to Husayn Kamil against the objection of her husband Saddam Husayn's brothers. She also played a role in the marriage of her daughter, Rana, to Saddam Kamil later. Sajidah always stood by them and by their husbands whenever Udayy Saddam Husayn tried to extend his authority to the two husbands' sphere of influence, particularly in financial affairs.

According to reports received by certain quarters in the West, the sister of Saddam Husayn visited Amman at her own initiative and met with the two daughters. She got the feeling that they wanted to return home, but they also wanted to maintain their dignity. The two daughters did not pin much hope on their aunt, because they already knew that their mother was very bitter with them.

This tense atmosphere in the homes of the two families in Amman reflected on Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam. Reports say that the two brothers have become more tense, nervous, and unbalanced. The situation became worse when security quarters told them that some of their escorts are loyal to the ruling regime in Baghdad and not to them, and that they are waiting for a suitable chance to carry out a serious operation against them on orders from Baghdad.

Reports say that a dispute is brewing between the two brothers. Saddam Kamil followed his brother's dreams without a question but discovered that the situation was different. They have been isolated and under threat from their closest people. They also have lost the chance to make changes in Baghdad with outside help. Saddam asked his brother Husayn: Where are we heading? He received no satisfactory reply. Their isolation is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

increasing, the number of visitors, which was small, anyway, is decreasing, security dangers are growing, and hope for the future is disappearing.

The two brothers discovered that the Iraqi opposition, which is already divided, will not accept them because they were part of the regime that oppressed the Iraqi people. The opposition does not enjoy any significant support to enable it to lead a movement inside the country to change the regime. The differences among its leaders are more acute than the differences between them and Baghdad.

The two defecting families' other disappointment was their inability to enjoy the billions [no currency specified] deposited in Western or Asian banks or in investment projects because of the circumstances of their residence in Amman and the existence of a UN resolution to freeze Iraq's financial assets. It has also become difficult for them to get to this money after Saddam Husayn sent envoys to certain states requesting that they impose restrictions on these deposits because they are considered "money stolen from the Iraqi people."

Husayn Kamil admitted that he feels weary in Amman. While this statement is an indication of the "vacuum" in which Saddam's son-in-law lives, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

The concealed part of the iceberg, according to reports, is the disagreement that broke out between Husayn and his brother Saddam. Saddam thinks that his brother has deceived him and painted a picture different to that in which they live now. Saddam Kamil blamed his brother for the situation they are in now. Reports say that the two brothers had a stormy meeting, during which Saddam accused his brother of political naivete. He asked him to cut back on senseless statements regarding the Iraqi weapons' programs, the Baghdad regime, and the internal opposition. He thought that such statements will hurt the internal opposition. Saddam asked his brother Husayn not to break all links with Baghdad and keep at least one thin line to ensure their return, because the path of political advancement on the Arab and international levels has almost been closed to them.

Reports say that Saddam Kamil has lost hope. He thinks that staying abroad will be useless. He is undertaking separate efforts, without his brother's knowledge, to rebuild his bridges with Baghdad. The reports add that Saddam, who is not fully convinced of his brother's move, has sent a message to Iraq, through a member of a security apparatus operating at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman—and perhaps behind the ambassador's back—asking for advice on how to declare his repentance and rectify matters. He affirmed in this message that he is ready to stand trial after his return and accept any court sentence against him, because he thinks he was lured into this situation.

The official delivered the message to Qusayy Saddam Husayn. He explained to him Saddam Kamil's situation and position, the situation of his two sisters, Raghad and Rana, and their suffering and deep depression.

Qusayy did not respond immediately, perhaps because he wanted to consult with his father and mother. He later sent an envoy to Amman who met with Saddam Kamil and conveyed to him a brief message, expressing the family's position. The message said that Raghad and Rana can return without a problem. Saddam Kamil will be allowed to return and will be pardoned after he is put on trial. Husayn Kamil, however, will be tried on charges of high treason if he returned. The punishment for this crime is known: death.

This message, received in Amman recently, added fuel to the fire in the two defecting families. Observers interpreted Saddam Kamil's statement that there are no contacts with Baghdad and no disagreements with the two wives as negative confirmation of the existence of contacts and disagreements.

Reports confirm that Husayn Kamil is beginning to sense the danger more than his wife, his brother, and his brother's wife. He realized that he has burned his bridges before he had crossed safely. This explains the contradiction in his statements and casts some suspicion on their purpose.

One foreign observer wondered whether the purpose of Husayn Kamil's defection was to uncover the secrets of the Iraqi weapons' programs or frighten the neighbors and the big powers of the diversified arsenal of nuclear, biological, bacteriological, and chemical weapons to exert more pressure on the area.

This observer noted Husayn Kamil's statement that during the Kuwait liberation war, Iraq was getting close to producing a small nuclear bomb, weighing 300 to 500 kg, which an aircraft or a missile could fire. Experts know that U.S., Western, and Russian scientists have so far been unable to produce such a tactical bomb. He asked: What is Husayn Kamil's purpose in making such a statement, which is inconsistent with reality?

Reports say that Husayn Kamil, who discovered that he has become a useless card, is trying, in every possible way, to prove his importance after European, American, and Arab quarters had shunned him.

Husayn Kamil has secretly sent an envoy to the United States to appeal to American officials to save him from this dilemma. The envoy is a leader of an influential tribe in Iraq. Husayn Kamil blamed Washington for

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

his dilemma because the United States encouraged his defection in way or another.

The reports affirm that Husayn Kamil's role has ended and that he has paid and will pay a big price. The other members of the family will find the way back to Baghdad open within a reasonable time after the dust settles.

Saddam Expresses Views on Democracy, Leadership

96LH0001A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 6 Sep 95 pp 10-11

[FBIS Translated Text] President Leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has said that exercising democracy does not cancel the leading role of an official. It reinforces and defends it and uncovers effective ways to implement and follow up plans. Democracy means listening to ideas, suggestions, and criticism and listening to reactions, even if the views of the simple citizen were sounder than the views of the minister. A minister should not exercise pressure to make his views acceptable. People should have a fair chance to discuss and debate these views. A fair and objective exchange of views results in proper conclusions and solutions and a clearer view of the way to the goal. His excellency said that this exchange of ideas and views does not eliminate a minister's leading role and responsibility in making the final decision following a free and objective debate. His excellency recalled in this regard the discussions that took place in the meetings of the armed forces general command during the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and the immortal mother of battles. These meetings dealt with military plans and the battles' progress. They were characterized by the most splendid forms of democracy. Each member of the general command expressed his views on the topics on the agenda, supported by data and experience. We also summoned unit commanders from the field and sometimes even junior officers and soldiers to these meetings. We listened to their views, and when they finished, the general command resumed its discussion. The discussions occasionally heated up and different views were expressed. However, when the discussion had calmed down, solutions became clearer, and the commander in chief adopted the required decision.

This was contained in a comprehensive speech President Leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, delivered at the 34th Council of Ministers' session. His excellency called on the council members to urge all officials to get involved in debates, armed with data, and express their views freely. Officials expressing their views should not be subject to administrative or legal consequences, because we want an exchange of views. A minister must not blame an official for expressing a different view. In this way we can educate state officials to express their views freely and without fear.

In its 34th session, the Council of Ministers discussed the topics on its agenda. They included a number of projects under implementation, the Transport and Communication Ministry's draft regulations, and a draft decision to protect state property. The president leader, may God protect him, called for involving the people's councils and the party organizations in supervising the flour mills and grain silos in Baghdad and the governorates to ensure proper work according to a formula a committee led by the interior minister will submit. His excellency also instructed all the ministries dealing with production or services to control costs to ensure fair prices of goods and services. Uncontrolled costs, he said, could lead to a mark up in prices to generate profit for distribution among the workers. This does not create real incentive to increase production or improve quality. His excellency said that the responsible minister must put himself in the place of the citizen. We learn lessons from every experience. We learn these lessons after engaging in a serious study and discussion. We should use rewards as incentives to develop production and not the opposite. Therefore, I think each minister should shoulder his responsibility and form a neutral committee under him to scrutinize costs and prices. Things will be better when a minister knows exactly what is going on. His excellency requested that attention be given to cost accountants. They should be sent for training courses. Experts from universities or among state employees or retirees should be invited to participate in these courses so we can raise competence and improve performance.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Peres Hopes To Present New Government 'Next Week'

TA1611125495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres believes there is a chance he will present a new government next week, and he is not certain it will be a broader one. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Shim'on Peres made these remarks during the inauguration of a seat for the study of peace at Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

United Torah Jewry [UTJ] faction members told the Labor coalition negotiations team that they will support the government from outside in several matters if their terms in the sphere of religion are met. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the UTJ delegation said it was attending the meeting following consultations with Torah Sages. The UTJ is demanding legislation that will ban reform conversion; a comprehensive agreement on archaeological excavations; the preservation of the status quo in religious matters; and the nonamendment of the basic laws. The UTJ demands will be relayed to the acting prime minister, who will respond on 19 November.

Minister Ehud Baraq says it is highly probable he will cease being the interior minister within two weeks. He was speaking to our correspondent this morning. Hayim Ramon told our correspondent that his return to Labor is unconditional, but that he will not join the government unconditionally, and that it all depends on what Shim'on Peres proposes. Hayim Ramon met today with Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that Ramon will participate in the Labor bureau meeting this afternoon.

Minister Yosi Sarid says Meretz is unhappy with the game of musical chairs played in Labor. In his opinion, public figures would do well to rein in their passions these days. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el at midday, Minister Sarid voiced surprise at Minister Beilin's proposal that Meretz merge with Labor. The peace process is far from concluded, he said, and Meretz still has a lot of work ahead.

Further on Peres Government Decisions

TA1611160995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says he intends to take on the defense portfolio in addition to the premiership. Peres made his decision known in a closed meeting, according to a source at the meeting.

Peres said he could not make Ehud Baraq the defense minister due to the opposition of Army Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq and of the Defense Ministry's Director General David 'Ivri. Shim'on Peres says he expects to bring his new government before the Knesset for ratification next Wednesday [22 November]. Peres spoke after dedicating the Hebrew University Valory Chair for the Study of Peace.

The Labor Party coalition negotiating team met today with representatives of other Knesset factions, although observers believe Peres will not be able to expand the government's base. Amy Rhodes reports:

[Begin recording] [Rhodes] Both President 'Ezer Weizman and Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid have said they do not believe Shim'on Peres will be able to expand his current Knesset majority beyond the current 63 to 57 margin, though most opposition members of the Knesset are expected to abstain and not vote against the government in the ratification vote. Peres expects the vote to take place on Wednesday.

[Peres] We are trying to form the government by the middle of the next week. I do hope that if everything will go as anticipated, we shall bring the new cabinet before the Knesset on Wednesday.

[Rhodes] Peres continues to skirt the issue of changes in the cabinet and says he is unaware as to the possibility of moving ahead with Syria once his government is formed.

[Peres] We shall be in a position to judge what are the chances to reopen the negotiations with the Syrians after the visit of Dennis Ross in our country. On our part, we remain very serious in our willingness and readiness to negotiate with the Syrians so to arrive at full peace in the Middle East.

[Rhodes] In addition to the trip by the American envoy Dennis Ross here later this month, Peres himself is reportedly due to go to the United States next month for talks with President Bill Clinton to discuss whether the mood in Israel following the Rabin assassination allows for the Peres government to strive for an agreement with Damascus. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Peres Warns of Civil War if Majority Ruling Not Accepted

TA1711112995 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 17 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by 'Ezra Hen and ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "We must reach a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and I believe that this can be attained within a short period of time. Four more

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

years remain until the end of the century, and we will do it," Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stated yesterday in an address to Labor's Young Guard.

"The sooner it happens, the better it will be for us. It will spare us casualties, save us expenses, and give the young generation hope that it will not have to go through the same traumas we did. If we succeed, economic prosperity in Israel will be a direct consequence of the peace process," Peres said.

"I do not believe we can unite all opinions in the country," he added, "but there is no way to maintain the unity of the people unless we uphold the democratic regime. In other words, we should allow the existence of different opinions, but the decision must be made by the majority, and there is no other way around it. If the decision is not made by the majority there will be a civil war.

"A serious tragedy befell us which took us by surprise. To me, it was a personal shock to see my friend and political ally killed right before my very eyes. We must fight violence; however, just as a single violent individual should not be forgiven, we should be careful not to blame people who are not guilty.

"We would like to channel all the deep feelings that have surfaced into a huge movement that encompasses everybody — youths, immigrants, and pensioners," Peres said. [passage omitted]

Peres Says No Compromises To Be Made on Jerusalem

TA1711065295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister-Designate Shim'on Peres says he does not intend to compromise on the issue of Jerusalem. His comments were broadcast by satellite to a crowd of 3,500 in Boston who were attending a memorial gathering for Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 17 November includes a recorded passage of Peres' remarks to the Boston Jewish gathering in which he says, in English: "...because Jerusalem was never in history an Arab capital or a Palestinian capital, and yet the Jewish people have never had any other capital but Jerusalem, the capital of our prayers. Religiously we shall respect all the needs and traditions of the major three religions in Jerusalem."]

Peres told the crowd that Israel is working to achieve peace with Syria in an effort to end the cycle of war.

SHAS To Support Peres Government in Knesset Vote

TA1711065495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister-Designate Shim'on Peres met last night with Arye Der'i from SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. The two men agreed that after the formation of the new government, representatives from Labor and SHAS will meet to discuss the possibility of SHAS agreeing not to vote against the government in the coming year. Der'i made it clear that SHAS will vote in favor of the government presented by Peres to the Knesset on Wednesday [22 November].

Paper on Shelved Plan To Assassinate SHAS Leaders

TA1611170895 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ultra-Orthodox weekly HAMAHANE HAHAREDI reports today that right-wing extremists had planned to assassinate Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, the spiritual leader of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and SHAS leader Arye Der'i. SHAS sources today confirmed the report that rabbis had issued a ruling pronouncing Rabbi Yosef a rodef [someone who imperils the lives of Jews and, as such, is condemned to death] due to SHAS' support for the Rabin government in the past. Yiftah El'azar reports:

[Begin El'azar recording] SHAS sources said this evening that they were not surprised at the report of plans to hurt Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. SHAS Knesset members have received letters containing death threats and hate calls to their homes because of their support for the government and, a few months ago, demonstrations were staged in front of Rabbi Yosef's home to protest SHAS' support for the coalition. The atmosphere of incitement against SHAS leaders stopped only after Rabbi Yosef decided to stop sitting on the fence and move to the opposition benches.

The banner headline in today's issue of the ultra-Orthodox weekly HAMAHANE HAHAREDI notes that extremist rabbis had issued a rodef ruling against Rabbi Yosef because of his moderate views and his permission to give back territories. A similar rumor made the rounds in SHAS last week in connection with a certain rabbi, whose name was mentioned in the media.

According to the report, right-wing extremists had planned to use the atmosphere of incitement against the leaders of SHAS to attack Rabbi Yosef and Arye Der'i — we are not talking about recent days but about

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

some months ago — but Qiryat Arba' residents got wind of the rumor and prevented the violent intentions from being put into action. In any event, the plan was dropped when Rabbi Yosef decided to move the faction to the opposition.

SHAS sources have confirmed that they know of past plans to attack Rabbi Yosef. It is not known how serious those intentions were or whether any people got together to carry them out. [end recording]

Charges EYAL Founded by Shin Bet Termed 'Rubbish'

TA1611131695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabbi Beni Eylon, one of the leaders of the Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land] Movement claimed today that he has reasonable suspicions, as he put it, that the Shin Bet has established and funded the EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] organization. Eylon talked to our correspondent Gay Zohar:

[Begin Eylon recording] There were always rumors. More reasonable suspicions exist, and I asked to speak to the members of the state commission of inquiry a few days ago. I would not like to do this through the media, but according to suspicions — again, only prima facie suspicions — when we speak about EYAL and Avishay Raviv we are not talking about a mole that the Shin Bet planted in an existent organization. We are talking about its creation, establishment, cultivation, fomentation, and stimulation. Once again, all these are prima facie, reasonable suspicions and nothing more than that. This was an extremist organization that incited, provoked, stimulated, and all that. The prima facie suspicions are not just that the Shin Bet knew who the group was, but that it was the one who set it up, financed it, and created it. [end recording]

Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that the media adviser of the acting prime minister said in reaction that it seems that when people are experiencing pangs of conscience, their imagination starts running wild. All I can do is term the remarks by Rabbi Beni Eylon rubbish, she said.

Suspect Admits Consulting Rabbi Outside Territories

TA1611153395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dror 'Adani, who is suspected of aiding in the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin, told his attorney that Yig'al 'Amir sent him to receive rabbinical authorization for the assassination, but the rabbi rejected the idea for halakic reasons. The attorney did not tell our correspondent the rabbi's name but said he is somebody with rabbinical authority who does not reside in the territories. In his interrogation, 'Adani said he gave the 'Amir brothers a submachine gun but did not participate in planning the assassination or assist in the action.

Possible Crackdown on 'Inciters' Within Green Line

TA1711110295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Nov 95 pp A1, A10

[Report by Gid'on Alon, Eytan Rabin, Re'uven Shapira, and Yosi Hatoni]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Security elements are looking into the possible enforcement of administrative measures against suspected inciters and subversives within the boundaries of the Green Line. If a decision is made to that effect, these arrest warrants would be signed by the commander of the Homefront Command, the officer with the authority to sign Defense Emergency Regulations. This transpired yesterday in a meeting of the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee dealing with law enforcement against inciters and ideological criminals.

Colonel Shlomo Politis, the legal adviser of the Judaea and Samaria area, spoke about the possibility of adopting administrative measures — arrests, house arrests, confinement, and other orders — also within the boundaries of the Green Line. He said: "The same preemptive measures that are enforced beyond the Green Line should be enforced within it." The issue will be discussed next week by the Military Judge Advocate's Office and has not yet been examined by the senior military level because Major General Shmu'el Arad, the commander of the Homefront Command, is abroad.

Military sources noted that the enforcement of confinement orders and administrative measures within the Green Line requires a legal review by the Military Judge Advocate's Office as well as by the Israel Police and the Shin Bet. Senior army sources are in favor of restricting the movement of right-wing extremists.

Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran, the commander of the Central Command, has issued a number of confinement orders against right-wing activists within the last few days. The orders ban them from entering Hebron and the Cave of the Patriarchs, but allow them to move freely in other parts of the West Bank.

Meanwhile, the Shin Bet has begun implementing the initial findings of its in-house committee set up to look into the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The Shin Bet has added manpower slots and increased

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

its intelligence activities in a bid to keep an eye on extreme right-wing organizations in the territories and in Israel. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Nuclear Project Seen as Ongoing Threat to West

TA1611143895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Nov 95 p B1

[Article by Re'uven Pedatzur: "The Danger Has Not Passed"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The revelations of the high-ranking Iraqi defector, General Husayn Kamil Hasan, on the biological warheads Saddam Husayn possessed during the Gulf War have been given extensive publicity. The Iraqi president's son-in-law, who had been at the head of the Iraqi weapons industry, revealed to the world that 25 Scud missiles had been armed with biological warheads and pointed at Israeli cities during the war; that 15 tonnes of germ cultures had been loaded on bombs and missiles which Saddam planned to drop on Saudi and Israeli cities; and that Saddam's biological weapons arsenal was 10 times larger than previously estimated.

Iraq's procurement of operational biological weapons undoubtedly merits appropriate attention, and its significance should be analyzed both on the professional level and in the sphere of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] preparedness. Gen. Kamil's most crucially significant revelations, however, remain hidden from the public. It should be remembered that the defecting general was also in charge of Iraq's nuclear project, and the uncovering of the latter's secrets was one of the central targets of Western intelligence agencies.

In this sense, Gen. Kamil is a treasure for his American interrogators from the CIA. He is a man who can reveal everything Saddam Husayn has been trying to hide from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] inspectors for the past five years. Although the inspectors have been making regular visits to those Iraqi nuclear installations they have been able to locate, Saddam has continued to hoodwink them, as is evident from Kamil's revelations.

In addition to the information Kamil has given the West, Iraqi Administration officials, in an attempt to besmirch the defector and undermine his credibility, handed over to the UN inspectors a detailed, 198-page document, as well as 100 boxes full of additional documents and evidence on the Iraqi nuclear planning project formerly headed by Kamil. Most of the information disclosed by the general, as well as the information garnered from documents handed over by the Iraqis, has not been made public, and IAEA Director Hans Blix even attempted to discount it.

Yet the little that has leaked out and an analysis made by experts indicate that Iraq was much closer to producing a nuclear bomb than initially estimated. Not only has the danger of the Iraqi nuclear procurement not passed, despite the IAEA inspection, it is becoming more and more concrete and threatening. [passage omitted]

The nuclear plan, which the Iraqis have been assiduously developing, naturally includes the development and production of the planned bomb's key components. The extensive searches conducted by the UN inspectors failed to uncover any such component, however, although the documents show that the components were indeed built and that some have even been tested. The most recent Iraqi document the inspectors have been able to commandeer exposes the impressive progress Iraqi scientists made in developing the powerful chemical detonator needed to create enormous pressure on the heart of the bomb in order to induce a nuclear explosion. The UN inspectors' searches throughout Iraq have not uncovered even a trace of the component.

Nobody can promise that Iraqi scientists are not continuing development work on these and other components of nuclear weapons, which have been hidden from the inspectors. The Iraqis eventually did hand over the converted nuclear fuel to the UN inspectors, but the development of the other components, which is almost certainly continuing secretly, can enable them to put together a bomb very quickly from the moment they acquire the right material (enriched uranium or plutonium).

Taking into account the black market in nuclear materials, which is growing at a fast and worrisome pace, the Iraqi nuclear threat could become very real much sooner than the UN inspectors tend to believe.

If the analysis of the situation presented in the HERALD TRIBUNE is correct, the updated information Gen. Kamil brought with him on the secret activity in the nuclear field over the past five years can serve as evidence of the continuation of the nuclear threat posed by Iraq. It is possible, therefore, that Israeli policymakers and intelligence should focus their attention on what is happening in Iraq and not make do with a warning about the danger of Iran's nuclear plan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Poll Shows Peres Leading Netanyahu for Prime Minister

TA1711115895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Nov 95 p 1

[Mutagim Institute poll]

[FBIS Translated Text] Question: If the elections for the premierships were confined to Peres and Netanyahu, who would you vote for?

Answer: Shim'on Peres — 60%; Binyamin Netanyahu — 28%.

Question: Who would you vote for in a race between several candidates?

Answer: Shim'on Peres — 49%; Binyamin Netanyahu — 22%; Dan Meridor — 5%; Hayim Ramon — 5%; David Levi — 3%; Refa'el Eytan — 3%; Ehud Baraq — 2%.

Question: Are you for or against appointing Ehud Baraq to the post of defense minister?

Answer: for — 77%; against — 14%.

The poll was conducted for MA'ARIV by the Mutagim Institute on 15 November 1995 among some 500 interviewees constituting a representative sample of the adult Jewish population. The margin of error is 4.5 percent.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

King Sends Message to Saudi King Fahd on Ties

JN1611175495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a written message to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques. The message dealt with relations between the two sisterly countries and means of developing them.

The letter was delivered by Hani Khalifah, Jordanian ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during a meeting with Sultan Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation.

The Jordanian ambassador conveyed His Majesty King Husayn's greetings and wishes of continued good health and happiness to his brother King Fahd bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

For his part, His Highness Prince Sultan asked the Jordanian ambassador to convey King Fahd's greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to His Majesty King Husayn.

King Receives Credentials of Saudi Ambassador

JN1611174295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received the credentials of Saudi Ambassador to Jordan 'Abdallah al-Sudayri at the Raghadan Palace today.

Israeli Arab Team Pays Visit, Meets With Leaders

Meets King Husayn

JN1611202295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn received Hashim Mahamid, head of the Democratic Front for Peace and member of the Israeli Knesset, and the delegation accompanying him at the Royal Hashemite Court today. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended.

During the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn welcomed the delegation's head and members and lauded their persistent efforts and struggle to achieve peace in the region. He also lauded their historic positions which played a role in pushing the peace process forward.

His majesty stressed Jordan's consistent position on achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region as well as its definite interest in spreading security and stability in the region.

[Begin Husayn recording, in progress] .... and I thank all brothers and the dear sister for these genuine, noble sentiments and for these good feelings toward me and toward your brothers here in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

I would like to stress our pride in what we have heard and learned about you all in terms of your continued endeavors to serve equality, justice, and peace which is founded on bases that guarantee its continuity for ever among peoples, with God's help, and also in terms of Palestinian rights on Palestinian national soil, and in terms of working for a comprehensive solution which we are all required to accomplish in the coming phases. Thus, the comprehensive peace we are talking about will be established.

With regard to the distinguished relations between the brothers and kinsfolk on the Jordanian-Palestinian level and our full commitment to supporting our kinsfolk and brothers in order to regain their rights on their national soil as part of a comprehensive peace in this region as well as our view of the future; the language you are speaking is the same as our language, and what you concentrate on is the same as what we concentrate on.

We are very proud of you, and we hope that you will convey to all kinsfolk and brothers—who are proceeding on the same path toward the same noble objectives—all our love, appreciation, and pride in what they have offered as well as our pride in our fraternity.

Concerning what has happened recently, we are also talking about the same thing. We are more committed than before to proceeding on the path of achieving a just and comprehensive peace for all peoples in this region. We are more determined to speak frankly and courageously and say that these are our positions in the face of all attempts by the enemies of peace to torpedo peace and, consequently, to dash all hopes for the future which will bring much good to all these peoples and to the entire region.

We belong to the camp of peace. We are working to preserve what has been accomplished and to continue, God willing, to realize more achievements on the path of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in this entire region.

We will stand against all forces opposed to this move and trend to the best of our capabilities and resources. These forces will not be able to turn off the light of life and justice or to disavow the right of these peoples and of the coming generations to a free and decent life on their soil while cooperating together as part of peace for which we have worked. We will continue to do our utmost in the coming phases with God's help.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

I thank you very much. I have great appreciation, pride, and hope for continuing our contacts. Your kind visit to Amman today and this meeting with your kinsfolk and brothers here are blessed moves. I have great hope that our meetings and contacts will continue. We pray to God to grant you success. You enjoy our admiration, thanks, and appreciation. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Meets Foreign Minister

JN1611214495 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The king today met with Israeli-Palestinian Knesset Member and Head of the Democratic Peace Front Hashim Mahamid and the delegation accompanying him on a visit to Jordan. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim also met with the Democratic Peace Front members. The delegation commended Jordan's democratic march and efforts toward a comprehensive peace in the region.

King Husayn, Queen Nur Leave for London

JN1711130695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king and Her Majesty Queen Nur have left for London on a working visit lasting several days. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan was sworn in as regent.

Their majesties were seen off by Crown Prince Hasan, Her Royal Highness Princess Basmah, and other royal family members, as well as the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and the king's advisers, in addition to military and civic officials.

Their majesties are accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Haya Bint-al-Husayn; Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, the king's military secretary; Princess Ghayda' Talal; and his majesty's advisers Muhammad Rasul al-Kilani and Yanal Hikmat.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Former Parliament Figure Denounces Assassination

NC1711081395 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 8 Nov 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Albert Mukhaybir [former deputy speaker of the Lebanese Parliament] has denounced the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He also expressed regret that the Lebanese Government has not denounced the assassination "as Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has done."

Mukhaybir said: "I strongly denounce all acts of violence wherever they are. I particularly denounce the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who worked for peace in the Middle East but became its victim. His martyrdom for peace was testified to by great world leaders, including Middle East leaders."

Mukhaybir added: "I thank dear friend Husayn al-Husayni [former speaker of Lebanese Parliament] for denouncing the revulsive demonstrations that have nothing to do with the Lebanese people's customs and traditions. I am flabbergasted that state television has announced the news of these demonstrations but has not announced the government's denunciation of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination as Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has done. The Lebanese Government is afraid to voice the permissible. Poor Lebanon."

Hizballah Radio Round Up of Security Developments

NC1711080095 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Report by Samir 'Alamah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The south witnessed another day of Zionist aggression yesterday. Over 1,500 Zionist rocket shells have been dropped on Iqlim al-Tuffah and western al-Biqa' since 13 November.

Zionist artillery units fired scores of shells at the villages adjacent to the occupied region. The bombardment continued until this morning, particularly on Iqlim al-Tuffah and the areas surrounding the western al-Biqa' hills. The enemy used heavy 155-mm and 175-mm artillery.

The Islamic Resistance responded to these attacks with two successful operations that wounded five Zionists, according to the enemy's admission. In the first operation, the Islamic Resistance mujahidin detonated an explosive charge under an occupation patrol along the road to Sujud. Some patrol members were killed or wounded. Agent [South Lebanese Army] sources admitted that two enemy soldiers were wounded. Raising this number to five, Agent radio said rockets were fired after the explosion.

The Islamic Resistance announced that on the occasion marking the birth of Prophet Muhammad's daughter Fatimah al-Zahra', and as part of performing the duty of defending our people and land, the Resistance targeted an enemy assembly point monitored inside the 'Alman position with the appropriate weapons. The attack scored direct hits.

Occupation artillery bombarded the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills during the night. Jabal Habbush and Jabal al-Rafi' were also bombarded by 155-mm artillery from al-Zaffatah position.

According to reports from western al-Biqa', Jabal Abu Rashid came under heavy bombardment from Ibil al-Saqy. The bombardment continued intermittently until this morning. [passage omitted]

Israeli gunboats this morning fired with machine guns at fishermen off the al-Bayyadah coast.

Moreover, the Agents are preventing Rshaf residents from farming. They are also preventing them from leaving their homes before 1300, and ordering them to return before dark.

According to information, the enemy's agents in the Rshaf position evacuate the position at night, storm nearby homes, and sleep in them after forcing their inhabitants out. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Radio Views Ross Tour, Reiterates Peace Stand

JN1711152595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The battle for peace is the most difficult and hazardous battle ever fought by Syria, which launched the Corrective Movement under President Hafiz al-Asad. It is well known that Syria seeks a just and comprehensive peace in the region — peace that would return the Arab territories and rights to their owners, remove all traces of occupation, and put an end to the policy of expansion and aggression which Israel has been practicing persistently.

It is not easy for the Tel Aviv rulers to abandon a policy they have been implementing since the creation of Israel, especially since they penetrated the unity of the Arab ranks and signed separate agreements with the Palestinian side and Jordan. They also succeeded in normalizing economic relations with a number of Arab governments. Therefore, they applied pressure on Syria and practiced deception and procrastination vis-a-vis advancing the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

They came to realize that Syria never bargains over its land and rights and that it holds fast to restoring the Golan Heights in full and to accomplishing an honorable peace that preserves dignity. The proposed security arrangements can never be made on one side, that is, the Syrian side as Israel wishes. These arrangements should be evenhanded and equitable on both sides of the 4 June 1967 lines. In short, Syria is negotiating from a strong position and accepts no peace that undermines its sovereignty over its land, forces it to relinquish a single right, or violates its dignity. The aspired peace is that of the brave and the strong — a just and honorable peace.

Given that Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, is faithful to its principles and believes in its message, the Syrian track suffered a noticeable stumbling and stagnation. No significant headway was made on this track. The former Israeli Government went as far as asking the United States to stop its efforts and endeavors ... [20-second break in transmission] and its participation in the peace process, especially after the latest events that plagued Israel which proved that the spiralling Zionist violence can be confronted only through pressing ahead with the peace process and employing the U.S. Administration's efforts to advance the Syrian track and realize real progress.

Latest reports said that the U.S. Administration's envoy Dennis Ross is on his way to the region to explore the positions of Israel and Syria and discuss the means of bridging the gap between them. As President Hafiz al-Asad had asserted on every occasion and on the first day of the glorious October War, Syria is interested in the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East — peace that would terminate the Israel occupation and return the territories and rights in full. The Golan Heights is an inseparable part of the homeland. Restoring the Golan is a trust for which every Syrian citizen is responsible.

As the masses of Syria are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the Corrective Movement, we must reiterate that the Golan Heights should be restored, the people of the Golan should return to their homes, and all the occupied southern Lebanon should be liberated in order to achieve the aspired just and comprehensive peace.

Ba'th Party's al-Ahmar Addresses Anniversary Rally

JN1611162795 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1006 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at a speech rally marking the Silver Jubilee of the Corrective Movement held at the al-Umawiyin Conference Palace in Damascus—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Comrades, sons of our proud Arab people, masses of our militant Arab nation, and esteemed gathering: On this unique day marking the great and eternal 25th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement, we are overwhelmed by a general feeling of pride as we see the comprehensive achievements that are taking place to enable proud Syria and the Arab nation to attain progress and prosperity and to open a wide future for them. [passage omitted]

Syria has been working in accordance with formulas that are suitable for each stage in order to enhance economic, cultural, social, and political cooperation among the Arab countries. Syria is also working to bolster joint Arab action by protecting, defending, and developing the joint Arab institutions and promoting the great pan-Arab project to counter the projects through which Israel seeks to dismember the Arabs as a first step to end their existence on the national level and to impose its hegemony on their resources and on the entire region.

Within the framework of this comprehensive Arab action that is closely linked with the national issues, Syria struggles to keep the peace process within its course to enable it to achieve the objectives it was set to attain, the objectives of a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the implementation of known UN Security Council resolutions which require Israeli's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines, from southern Lebanon, and from all the Arab territories it occupied in the June aggression, including Arab Jerusalem. [applause and chants]

Brothers, esteemed gathering, and masses of our Arab nation: Developments have proved the soundness of Syria's position, which would not have been so if it had not been based on an integrated method of understanding and dealing with reality. Events and developments have shown the extent of the harm done to pan-Arab interests by the frenzy of those who rush toward Israel, and those who have departed from coordination and signed agreements which only serve Israel's interests.

Developments have also shown that incomplete peace is, in fact, no peace, and will lead only to more tension and violence for everybody concerned. Had Israel responded to the requirements and principles of just and comprehensive peace in the region based on international legitimacy, the region would long ago have achieved the desired just and comprehensive peace, which will restore the land and rights to their owners and enable the region's peoples to live in safety and stability and attain progress and prosperity. The policy of evading peace cannot lead to peace. Israel must know that peace and occupation can never meet, and that peace and the stockpiling of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons can never meet. The Arabs are a fair nation, but are proud and sagacious and will never relinquish any of their rights or accept any humiliation or insult.

Syria considers peace its strategic option, and for that purpose, it has been making great efforts, holding contacts, and launching initiatives to enable the peace process to attain its desired objectives.

Comrades, the Arabs are not merely a nation that is demanding its rights, it is a nation that is struggling in every way for the sake of these rights. Within the militant framework which has been entrenched by the glorious Corrective Movement, militant practices have developed in the pan-Arab arena, and the Lebanese national resistance has been established and strengthened. Resistance is an inalienable right of the Lebanese people because it was launched as a result of the occupation, and its effects cannot be removed before the removal of the cause.

The same logic applies to our Palestinian Arab people's intifadah, which expresses the proud people's will, their adherence to their rights, and their categorical rejection of Israel's hegemony.

As for our valiant kinfolk in the Golan [applause], their struggle is taking place under the most difficult circumstances because they are subject to the Israeli law. This struggle is the best natural extension to the entire Syrian people's struggle for independence during the colonialist era. It is a struggle that must be crowned with independence and the return of the Golan to its motherland, Syria, no matter how long the occupation may last [applause]. In all its moves, Syria worked to refute the Israeli policy, which wants to impose on the world a logic saying that whoever resists its occupation is a terrorist. Syria has successfully made international forums, from the United Nations to the Nonaligned Movement, distinguish in their resolutions between terrorism and the resistance to the Israeli occupation.

Comrades: The Corrective Movement has a comprehensive approach that takes into consideration the reality with all its extensions and ramifications. It does not accept to isolate or disconnect phenomena from the their natural courses. Syria is part of the greater Arab homeland. The Arab homeland's strategic location, resources, and the mission of this homeland's people impose on it an effective universal role.

While looking after its resident citizens, Syria also looks after Syrian and Arab expatriates. Therefore, Syria developed and fostered links with the expatriates to activate their role and extend bridges of friendship, cooperation, and understanding between their nation and the peoples among whom they live.

Al-Asad's Syria cooperates with all peoples struggling for their freedom and emancipation and for the building of a new world order based on democracy, equality, unified standards, and respect for every people's right to choose their own ways of progress.

Syria is playing an effective and positive role in the international community. Thanks to his wisdom and knowledge, Syria's leader, President Hafiz al-Asad [applause and chants], has become an esteemed world leader, with many world officials and leaders looking forward to meeting with him and listening to him. Syria is working to bolster and promote relations of understanding and cooperation with all forces and states to explain and defend Arab rights and pool as much support, or at least understanding, as possible for our fair pan-Arab causes. Syria is actively working at all international conferences, bodies, and gatherings to achieve those objectives. It is an effective member of the Organization of Islamic Conference and the Nonaligned Movement. [passage omitted]

The next phase requires continued work by everyone to build a new young generation believing in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

causes of its nation, a generation that is aware of all the developments taking place around it. We should protect this generation from the effects of the hostile forces and ideas and make greater benefit from the scientific and technological revolution. Research and modernization should be applied in all fields of work and life. In the coming phase, we should work to enhance the achievements that have already been scored and continue building the lofty edifice that we have started and firmly established so as to meet the demands and needs of the future generations.

The coming phase requires that the order of priorities be rearranged to make it in line with the recent changes and developments and their repercussions on the Arab situation. Serious work is required to lift the Arab situation from the current state of deterioration and weakness to a strong, firm, and healthy state that enables it to confront the political and economic plans set for our region, such as the concepts of Middle Easternism, North Africanism, and the economic formulas presented by the Casablanca and Amman conferences. Those plans are aimed at substituting the Arab identity in this region and paving the way for imposing the Israeli hegemony over the region's countries and resources. One of the most important priorities of the next phase is to devise new formulas to protect the pan-Arab existence, starting with defending, protecting, and promoting the institutions of joint Arab action and increasing their effectiveness, up to enhancing the forms of multifaceted political, cultural, economic, and social cooperation among Arab states. This is in order to arrive at a state of integration among those states and create the appropriate atmosphere for proceeding in a march of unified action with everyone's contribution. This should not be in favor of a certain Arab side at the expense of another. Rather, this should be in favor of everyone. Therefore, Arab unity must be stressed as the ultimate objective [applause and chants] which should guide all the Arab masses and states. This objective is a necessary prerequisite for safeguarding our nation's future and enhancing its role in the world. This requires work to provide the requirements of a pan-Arab awakening that enables the Arab nation to face up to the posed crucial challenges, represented by the challenges to liberate the occupied territory, achieve comprehensive pan-Arab development, and abort suspect projects that are being raised to enable Israel to impose its hegemony over our nation and its resources.

The coming phase also requires adherence to and defending our principles and rights, including the principles for the sake which the peace process was launched, represented by restoration of the Arab territory and rights and arriving at a just, comprehensive peace that provides security, stability, and prosperity for all peoples of the region. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Endorses Mechanism for Transfer of Power

BK1611153895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov 16 (AFP) — Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has agreed to transfer power to a council of 28 people representing various warring factions, UN Special envoy on Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri said here Thursday [16 November].

"President Rabbani has endorsed the list" submitted to him by Mestriri two days ago, the UN envoy, who has been trying for the past two months to arrange peace in Afghanistan, told a news conference.

He said the list has also been handed over to the leaders of the Taleban militia and their response was awaited.

He said the 28 people selected on the basis of their ethnic and political affiliations will form a council which would take power from Rabbani. He gave no timeframe for the transfer of power.

He said the ceasefire could come "simultaneously" when power is transfered or it could be a day earlier than the formal take over of Kabul by the council.

He admitted that the Taleban who now control more than half of Afghanistan, have expressed some "reservations.

List of Proposed Council Members

BK1611164595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1632 GMT 16 Nov 95

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov 16 (AFP) — Following is the list of 28-member council released by UN special envoy on Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mestiri here Thursday [16 November]. President Borhanoddin Rabbani has agreed to transfer power to the council if his rival leaders also endorse the list, Mestiri said.

The council members have been selected from 32 Afghan provinces divided into eight zones.

1—North-East Zone (Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan):
Abdul Hai Haqju, Syed Ahmed Royan, Syed Naser Naderi.
2—North Zone (Samangan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Faryab):
Abdul Karim Zarei, Abdul Rahman Rahmani, Maulwi Zareef.
3—West Zone (Herat, Badghis, Ghor, Farah, Nimroz):
Syed Noorullah Emad, General Naiem Baloch, Mawlawi Faqir Mohammed.
4—South-West Zone (Kandahar, Helmad, Uruzgan, Zabul):
Mullah Rabbani, Mullah Abdul Wadood, Mullah Abdul Ghaffar Akhunzada, Ayatullah Mohseini.
5—South Zone (Paktia, Paktika, Khost, Ghazni, Logar, Maidan- Wardak):
Qutubuddin Helal, Mawlawi Mohammed Shah Fazli, Mawlawi Haqqani.
6- East Zone (Ningarhar, Laghman, Kunar, Nooristan):
Mawlawi Yunus Khales, Qazi Amin Waqad, Haji Roohullah
7—Central Zone (Bamyan, Parwan, Kapisa):
Ayatullah Fazel, Ayatullah Siddiqui Parwani, Ayatullah Mehdawi, Dr. Abdullah.
8—The Capital (Kabul):
Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmedzai, Zabihullah Mojaddedi, Syed Salman Gailani, Aziz Naiem, Maulana Ayatullah Eblagh.

Bangladesh

Ruling Party Favors 'General Elections'

BK1611065695 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A meeting of the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] parliamentary party was held at the Sangsad Bhavan in Dhaka last night. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presided over the meeting. The meeting discussed the prevailing political situation, organizational matters, and overall situation in the country. The meeting expressed its opinion in favor of general elections.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, BNP acting secretary general and food and agriculture minister, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, said the prime minister in her speech directed her party MP's to be mentally prepared for the elections. The prime minister asked the party MP's go to their respective constituencies and work with the people to solve various local problems and help carry forward development activities. The members expressed their satisfaction and unanimity with the steps taken by the party under the existing situation in the country.

The meeting also expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by the government for controlling price of essential commodities and face the flood situation in the northern region.

The meeting attended by 130 MP's was also addressed among others by the Deputy Leader of Parliament Professor S.C.M Badrudozza Chowdhury, Chief Whip Khondokar Dilwar Hussain, Acting Secretary General

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister Harun al Rashid and Shahjahan Seraj.

India

China's Qiao Shi Meets Leaders, Discusses Ties

BK1611162195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and China have agreed on the need for expanding economic and commercial relations between the two countries. The subject came up during the discussions between the visiting Chinese dignitary, Mr. Qiao Shi, and the Indian leaders in New Delhi today. Mr. Qiao Shi, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, met the president, the vice president, the prime minister, the Lok Sabha speaker, the external affairs minister, and the minister for parliamentary affairs. He is leading a parliamentary delegation.

Mr. Narasimha Rao referred to the steady development of India-China relations and said parliamentary exchanges provide a very valuable contribution. He said the two countries should work together to strengthen global peace and development. Mr. Rao and Mr. Qiao Shi noted that there is excellent scope for developing economic relations between the two countries. The Chinese leader invited the prime minister to visit his country again.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, expressed the hope that the two countries will proceed to resolve problems arising out of the border dispute, which is a complex one and requires time and patience. Mr. Qiao Shi said problems left over from history can be resolved, if there is goodwill and determination on both sides.

Earlier, Mr. Qiao Shi visited Rajghat and laid a wreath at the samadhi [mausoleum] of Mahatma Gandhi.

Delhi Brings in New Negotiator for Kashmir Hostages

BK1711093595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Nov 17 (AFP) — The Indian authorities have brought in a fresh negotiator in a bid to secure the release of four Western tourists held hostage in Kashmir for more than four months, officials said Friday [17 November].

Deputy inspector general Ratinder Koul has been named to replace Rajinder Tickoo, another senior police officer, as the government negotiator in talks with Muslim separatist militants holding the four Westerners, they said.

The officials, who requested anonymity, said Koul had his first telephone contact with the kidnappers on Thursday and was expecting another call on Friday.

Kashmir government spokesman Kul Bhushan Jindiyal expressed cautious optimism meanwhile that the hostages would be released soon.

"The hostages are reported to be safe," he added.

Jindiyal also renewed an appeal to the kidnappers to release the four men.

Government negotiators reestablished contact with Al-Faran on November 9 after a break in negotiations for 50 days.

Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Don Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, have been held by the separatist group Al-Faran since early July. They were kidnapped while trekking in the Kashmir Himalayas.

Al-Faran militants also kidnapped another Western tourist, 27-year-old Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, in early July.

Ostro's body was found by the roadside the next month along with a note from the kidnappers warning that the other hostages would meet the same fate if the Indian authorities failed to release 15 imprisoned Muslim militants.

The Indian government has ruled out exchanging any prisoners for the hostages and said a commando-style rescue operation would be too risky.

The Indian authorities believe Al-Faran is a front for the Harkat-ul-Ansar rebel outfit, which kidnapped two British trekkers in Kashmir last year and released them unharmed after 17 days.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989 in violence linked to the Muslim secessionist drive.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting militancy in the disputed state but Islamabad denies the charge.

Paper Rejects U.S. Mediation Role in Kashmir

BK1711054695 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 15 Nov 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Again Raphel's Games"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again the United States, through Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, has offered to play the role of the mediator in resolving the Kashmir crisis between India and Pakistan. However, following its declared policy, India has again refused

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to accept the offer. What is important on this occasion is the timing of these moves. Despite India's repeated refusal to accept the offer, this time the United States made the suggestion when India is seriously worried about Pakistan's receiving weapons from the United States. Although Ms Raphel had assumed total silence on the issue of the Kashmir elections and had even confessed before to journalists, before the postponement of the elections, that she did not want to comment on the propriety of elections in Kashmir, no sooner had the postponement of the Kashmir elections been announced than she began to play her old tune on the issue. It seems that, like Pakistan, the United States is also not keen on the restoration of democratic processes in the State of Kashmir. For America the key factor is not whether the people of Kashmir have a democratically-elected government, allowing a new era of peace and development to commence, but rather to keep Pakistan fully satisfied on the Kashmir issue. This is because America deems its many political interests linked with keeping Pakistan in good humor. Hence its carefully balanced approach in pleading for Pakistan's interests; if America does not openly support Pakistan on the Kashmir issue it is not because of any conviction but because it cannot afford to neglect India because of vital economic considerations.

Ms Robin Raphel has suggested to Mr Vinod Kumar Grover, secretary of India's Ministry of External Affair, that India and Pakistan should restart their dialog and, in case of any difficulty, she would be prepared to come to their help. But the question is: what help can she render when she has repeatedly declared Kashmir to be disputed territory and refused to accept Kashmir's legal merger with India? Moreover, if the United States really desires peace in the subcontinent, how does its resuming weapons supply to Pakistan help in achieving this objective? Although American politicians during their India visits repeatedly stress the need for India and Pakistan to create a "bridge of confidence and trust in each other" by maiming the Pressler Amendment, they have themselves dug a new chasm between the two countries. As a matter of fact, America is not interested in Kashmir because of its commitment to democratic values or for the sake of establishing regional peace. It is interested solely because Kashmir is an important point in its Asian strategy; and Afghanistan is the other point. Despite Raphel conceding Pakistan's continued help to the Taleban, she shrewdly evaded the fact that the Taleban itself is a veiled military campaign of Pakistan. Although all the while declaring its resolve to continue its crusade against Islamic fundamentalism, America is deliberately overlooking the fact that the Taleban itself displays the most violent form of fundamentalist elements. The Rabbani Government of Afghanistan is no great believer in the secular values but in order to dethrone it Pakistan has to intensify religious fanaticism to a great extent. The express intention is to establish a government in Afghanistan which will render all help in America and Pakistan's joint policy of expansionism.

Under such a situation it would be suicidal for India to accept any suggestion for America's role as the mediator on the Kashmir issue. The U.S. Administration must be told in clear terms that under no circumstances will India not tolerate any interference in its internal affairs and any unsolicited advice in the matter is wholly unwelcome.

Paper Views U.S. Policy on Kashmir Elections

BK1711054395 Delhi HINDUSTAN in Hindi 15 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Raphel's Interest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] America's growing interest in the affairs of Jammu-Kashmir is causing concern and if no attention is paid it might be a cause for graver concern. The relief with which U.S. Assistant State Secretary Robin Raphel has patted the back of Farookh Abdullah clearly shows her delight at the postponement of the Assembly elections in Kashmir and indicates her congratulatory stance towards Farooq Abdullah for playing his role according to her wishes. The U.S. assistant secretary of state's histrionic tantrums reached the limit when she did not allow any time for the Hurriyat leaders, who always expect ready cooperation and support from the US Administration, to meet her. Disappointed they had to beat a hasty retreat back to Srinagar.

Today everyone wants to know what it is that has almost overnight so enhanced Farookh Abdullah's esteem in U.S. eyes. However, analysis of the situation reveals much about the case. The first and foremost question is: under what authority and in what capacity the United States has undeclaredly assumed the position of mediator in Kashmir affairs? The second question is: under what pretexts are Pakistan's illegal claims and activities being justified with the tacit encouragement of the United States? And the third and most vital query is: what has made Farooq Abdullah so valuable to the United States?

These questions need to be brooded over with a great deal of seriousness. America wants to keep the Kashmir issue alive in order to keep India under pressure. This superpower was well aware earlier, as it is now, too, that Pakistan's interference in Kashmir is blatantly illegal and if this is declared legal then any country can create disturbance in any other country of the world under the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

same pretext. Pakistan is not only illegally occupying a part of Kashmir, but by liberally smuggling money and weapons into other parts of Kashmir it is constantly trying to create a law and order problem and destablise this Indian state. Until a couple of years ago the United States was very much holding Pakistan responsible for encouraging terrorism in the State but now suddenly, far from maintaining the charge, the U.S. itself is making the most deadly weapons available to Pakistan in very large quantities. So it is apparent that the United States is adopting a strategy of exerting pressure from both the sides simultaneously. While openly it is maintaining a close contact with the Kashmiri leaders, tacitly it is, by liberally giving weapons to Pakistan, trying to worsen the Kashmir situation.

Now America also seems to be realising the danger of exposing its intentions if it continues to give prominence to the Hurriyat leaders. That is the reason why it has started to pamper its new prey, Farooq Abdullah, who appears to it more useful owing to his tantrums being close to its own style. Mr Abdullah wants more rights for the Kashmiri people under the framework of the Indian Constitution. What deserves close attention is his demand only for more rights and not for general prosperity, better employment facilities, and so forth for the people of Kashmir under the Indian Constitution. Nevertheless, it can't be denied that Abdullah played the most prominent role in having the elections postponed in Kashmir for which he richly deserves Ms Raphel's congratulations.

Despite all these developments it does not appear as though the Government of India is worried by these disturbing events or trying to learn any lesson from them. It seems that keeping America in good humour is an indispensable need for the Indian Government or else there is no sense in the declared agreement between India and United States which asserted that differences that emerged between the two countries owing to the United States resuming weapons' supply to Pakistan should not be allowed to impede the Indo-U.S. cooperation. It is in this light that Farooq Abdullah's role in current Kashmir affairs cannot be reckoned to be serving our country's national interest. Anyone playing a key role in having the elections postponed in strife-torn Kashmir cannot be held to be favouring the nation. Today it is essential for all affected parties, including the Government of India, to do everything to facilitate the holding of elections in Kashmir, otherwise anti-India elements will have valid grounds to claim that India has no control over Kashmir. Hence it would be better if fresh attempts were made to create a conducive atmosphere in Kashmir for the holding of Assembly elections there.

Paper Cautions Against 'Anti-American Hysteria'

BK1711053395 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 16 Nov 95 p 8

[Article by Hari Kishore Singh: "Unfriendly From the Start"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The preceding five decades have witnessed various complexities in Indo-American relations. The friendly chord which the Indian struggle for freedom struck in American "hearts" is well known. It was, therefore, natural to expect that he two countries would have a cordial relationship in which the leader of the New World, the real victor of World War II — the U.S. — and the leading light of the newly-independent nations — India — would work or the improvement of the lot of the deprived.

But things took a different turn. The cold war accentuated these differences and a stage came when the high priest of the cold war John Fosta Dulles called non-alignment opportunistic and denounced India on moral grounds. This naturally infuriated India. The power establishment in Delhi and public opinion in the country reacted sharply.

After bitter experiences of subjugation and exploitation under imperial rule, the reaction of the other newly-independent countries was equally sharp. They were least prepared to follow a new lord and master whose ambition to control and dominate a post-World War II world knew no bounds. This was not to the liking of the powers that be in Washington and this has been the cause of skirmishes and antagonism in Indo-American relations. As the world events began to unfold, the post-Stalinist Soviet leadership gave up the idea of world revolution and began to cultivate the newly-independent nations of Africa and Asia. Till the dismemberment of the Soviet Union Moscow remained a close ally on the Kashmir issue further cementing Indo-Soviet friendship.

The American administration in the first decade of the cold war tried to encircle the Soviet Union with a chain of military alliances. Asia was not spared, NATO was followed by the SEATO, the Baghdad Pact and ANZUS. Further, the formation of these alliances was combined with massive economic aid.

It is true that the Stalinist Russia was not satisfied with the division of the booty as one amongst the four victors of World War II. The division of the sphere of influence in Europe, under the Yalta Pact, was not to its liking. It, therefore, tried to spread its tentacles in Europe with the help of the local communist movements and left insurrectionist groups.

This naturally alarmed the leaders of the Third World. Many of them took it as a warning to themselves. They

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

resented the psychological pressure which emanated from this and became even more conscious of the designs of neo-imperialism. But this also strengthened their resolve to resist the onslaught on their newly-acquired status, power and privileges.

The India of Nehru, the Indonesia of Sukarno, the Egypt of al-Nasir and the Burma of U Nu not only resented the American hegemonistic designs, but were quite outspoken in their protests. In fact, it was they who brought into sharp focus the criticism of the conduct of U.S. foreign policy under Dulles. The Indo-U.S. relationship was thus a thorny issue right from the beginning. The only bright point came during the Chinese aggression when the Kennedy administration responded to the plea of a defeated India and a shattered Nehru. But this cordiality was short-lived and began to fade once again during the Johnson presidency and reached its nadir during the Bangladesh war.

The Brown amendment, therefore, should not come as a surprise to those who have closely followed the course of Indo-American relations. In fact, out of the host of apologists of the U.S. policy, the usual pro World Bank and IMF crowd alone was surprised at this latest turn in Indo-U.S. relationship. The influence of the military industrial complex, that is the U.S. armament industry, is so powerful that it virtually dictates terms to both the Pentagon and the White House and the poor State Department in between.

The Pakistani demand for the supply of F-16 planes or refund of the deposited amount with the U.S. did act as a catalyst on clinching the issue in favour of Pakistan. But the friendly relationship which Ms Benazir Bhutto was able to build up with Mr Bill Clinton during her last visit should have been a clear warning to India's policy makers on what was in store for us. The "damsel in distress" syndrome put up by the Pakistani envoy in Washington could not be effectively countered by Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray.

But our reaction to this U.S. folly should have the imprint of maturity based on our experience of five decades in the conduct of international affairs as a sovereign nation. While we should take all possible steps to safeguard our national security and interests, an anti-American hysteria should be the last thing on our agenda.

Japanese Firm To Act as 'Catalyst' for Business Ventures

BK1711111895 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 15 Nov 95 p 23

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Nov 14 — Sumitomo Corporation of Japan, one of the largest business conglomerates in the world, will be acting as a "catalyst" for facilitating more business ventures between Indian and Japanese entrepreneurs.

The company will invite Indian businessmen to Japan to attend a seminar on the business opportunities in India. It will also provide the platform for holding negotiations and subsequent alliances with their Japanese counterparts in business.

K. Nakajima of Sumitomo, says his company has already forged alliances between Indo-Japanese ventures. "Sumitomo has a wide- spread presence in most of the areas of business. We have been in India for quite some time also. So our aim is to promote Indo- Japanese business. We intend to impart our knowledge of this country to the Japanese entrepreneurs as well. In this effort we are also prepared to pick up equity in such projects so that it could sail smooth," he said. Sumitomo is the six largest company in the world with a turnover of $173 billion.

Mr Nakajima, who currently heads a team from the company, is in the capital for the announcement of a joint venture between the Japanese Tokai Rika and the Indian Minda Industries for the manufacture of switches and wiring harnesses for automobiles. Sumitomo holds five per cent equity in the project.

Mr Najakimo said the market size for these products amounted to Rs [rupees] 250 crore, which is growing at the rate of about 40 per cent per annum.

"We have already established other three joint venture companies in automotive industries in India with partners such as, Ford, Maruti, Nippon Denso and Taikisha. And our intention is to establish another five joint venture companies within one year in the field of automotive industries in India," Mr Nakajima said. According to him, in these projects the equity holding of Sumitomo varied from five per cent to 9.5 per cent.

The present joint venture for switches will manufacture various switches required in an automobile. A modern car, like Mercedes Benz, is said to have 45 switches like heat control switches, power window switches, on-off switches and the like. The company will invest Rs 25 crore, of which Rs 10 crore will be equity. Sixty per cent will be held by Minda, 35 per cent by Tokai Rika and the rest by Sumitomo.

Fifteen per cent of the total production is to be exported. AK Minda, managing director Mindarika, said initially there would be 15 per cent import content in the products. Mr Minda claimed that he had firm orders from DCM-Daewoo and negotiations were in an advanced stage with Ford Motors and General Motors.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iran

Velayati Rejects U.S. World Leadership 'Dream'

AU1611141995 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 13 Nov 95 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Neagu Udroiu in Tehran "very recently": "The World Is Moving Toward a Multipolar System" — first paragraph is TINERETUL LIBER introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velalyati has been the minister of foreign affairs of his country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, for almost 15 years. He knows the world and our country. The following discussion took place in his Tehran office very recently, in the presence of several close aides and of the Romanian ambassador to Iran, Cristian Teodorescu.

[Udroiu] To begin with, I would like you to talk about the Iranian-Romanian cooperation. How do you characterize it and what future possibilities do you see in this respect?

[Velayati] We attach great importance to our relations with Romania. I can recall that, since I came to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, some 14 years ago, we have had good relations with your country, regardless of the developments in your country and region. It is a good sign that the relations between our two countries have deep roots. These relations are an asset for world peace and civilization and a very precious thing for us, as I am sure they are for you, too. There might have been certain fluctuations in our relations over the course of time. Regarding bilateral relations, if we compare the total volume of bilateral transactions, we will probably note certain oscillations. But this is not the characteristic trend in our relations. As far as we are concerned, we are striving not to stay idle in this respect. The people responsible for implementing the decisions taken at high level by the two countries should try harder. Then, we will have much better economic relations, too. Regarding political ties, if a problem arises, we should follow the example of our colleagues in the other fields, such as the economic one, and smooth it over. We know that there is a good potential in this respect, and we should mobilize it. This is how we understand developing our bilateral relations.

[Udroiu] Would you be so kind as to talk about your country's priorities and about other things that might facilitate a better understanding of today's Iran?

[Velayati] Of course, I can talk to you about the priorities of our foreign policy and domestic policy, since, as a member of the cabinet, I am up do date with the overall situation. However, I believe that somebody else should brief you on the domestic issues.

Regarding Iran's foreign policy, I must tell you that our major priority is to remain independent. When we talk about independence, we mean true independence, which is most important to us. We have been independent for 200 years. But true independence has been undermined in our country for a century. We must concentrate our efforts on reaching this goal, which is the most important achievement. Each one strives to preserve this independence. We, those who work in the sphere of foreign affairs, are trying our best along these lines. We wish to have good relations of mutual respect and equal rights with other nations. Consequently, we have established relations with other countries, based on equality of rights.

We will not allow any other country to interfere in our affairs, and we do not interfere in their affairs, either.

We attach priority to ties with our neighbors. After the fall of communism and the emergence of a new world — maybe not of a new world order, too, but of a new world, nevertheless — we have tried to establish much better relations with our neighbors and with the countries around us, as well as with those countries with whom we are involved in common activities internationally.

For instance, when we talk about our relations with Romania, we give a certain priority to this relationship, because, for one thing, there are no misunderstandings whatever between us and no negative aspects to solve. We understand each other, our nations understand each other, and we know how to cooperate. This is true, even though we pay the greatest heed to regional cooperation at this time. We have bilateral relations of cooperation with various countries from various regions. We have bilateral and multilateral ties. This is something new for our country. He have not conducted such a policy or promoted such multilateral cooperation in the previous regime. This multilateral approach to international cooperation has also become a priority with us.

[Udroiu] You are one of the world's experienced diplomats. I would like to know your personal opinion about the world, at this end of the century. This is a common subject, not something new, but I would like to know your personal opinions on this issue. What are, in your opinion, the most characteristic features of this turn of the century?

[Velayati] The political situation is still pretty troubled. There is a need for stabilization and I am referring to the entire globe and the world situation in general. The U.S. Government has a single dream: They believe that the world will become unipolar.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

But then, this is only their dream. They keep saying that the world only has one superpower. They say that the world has a single superpower at the top of the pyramid and the others are under the control of this superpower. Many thought so during the former U.S. President's tenure, but now everybody knows that there are many nations and countries in the world, which maintain that the international system will reject the monopolar system. We have recently concluded the Nonalignment Movement summit. One of the most important paragraphs of the final statement is the one whereby the 130 nonaligned states reject this U.S. opinion.

The reality in other parts of the world confirms that what the U.S. Administration has in mind is not too realistic. One can see that the EU is becoming increasingly strong and large these days. The EU is not prepared to tolerate this U.S. supervision after the end of the cold war, because there is no longer any justification for what the United States is trying to do. The nations in Japan, the Far East, and Southeast Asia also have a different opinion. The Nonalignment Movement, the European countries, the yellow race peoples of China, Japan, and South-East Asia, and the peoples of Russia also think differently on this issue. Therefore, if you ask me about my opinion on the world's future, I can tell you that the world is moving toward a multipolar system and that regional cooperation has now acquired an important position. One can see that this is the most active system of them all. Everybody tries to adhere to one of these regional cooperation systems. This is a regional question, because, although large, Europe is still a region. The countries of South-East Asia are striving to join ASEAN [Association of South- East Asian Nations]. At the beginning, ASEAN had only five members. After it gained its independence, Brunei joined this organization. Recently, Vietnam joined it, too. Now, ASEAN has seven members, with Laos and Cambodia being the next on the list of candidates. ASEAN will eventually have 10 members. Even on the other side of the Pacific Ocean, the United States and Canada are trying to coordinate their moves. We are trying to achieve the same thing here, in our region. Therefore, this kind of regional cooperation, from various positions, proves that the world will have a multipolar system, as I said before.

[Udroiu] Thank you very much.

[Velayati] I thank you very much, too.

Rafsanjani: Velayat-e Faqih 'Pillar' of Rule

LD1411180895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first seminar on the definition of the Velayat-e Faqih convened today in Bushehr and was attended by representatives of the Assembly of Experts, specialists, and lecturers from seminaries.

The president, in a message to the gathering, described the Velayat-e Faqih as Islam's mode of government during the period of gheybat [absense of the 12th imam of the Shi'is], which relies totally on obeying God Almighty's decrees.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted the importance of the status of the Velayat-e Faqih, saying: Velayat-e Faqih is the fundamental pillar and protector of the Islamic Government and the manifestation of the strength and unity of the Islamic nation.

The president believes that the experience of the Velayat-e Faqih Government and its performance for over a decade now has caused a profound change in views and tendencies. He said: The doubts felt about whether an Islamic government could ever be formed have now changed into active and all-embracing belief. This new phenomenon, which was not taken seriously at the beginning, is now — in view of the strength and stability of the Islamic Republic — offering a splendid structure of religious government to those who are religious and to human society.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the destructive and conspiratorial modes of thought affiliated to the block of arrogant interests. He stressed that it is necessary to strengthen and present a comprehensive and clear explanation and definition of the concept of Velayat-e Faqih. [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani Inaugurates Dam in Marivan

LD1611153395 Tehran IRNA in English 1237 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Nov. 16, IRNA — President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Thursday [16 November] inaugurated the 40 million cubic meter Zarivar dam in the provincial city of Marivan.

The water of the dam is to irrigate some 2,200 hectares of land in the region.

The construction work on the dam started in 1992 with a Rls. 22.110 billion [rials] budget.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony minister of energy, Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh, said that his ministry has allocated a Rls. 43 billion budget for development projects at Kurdestan province this year.

Furthermore, he added that an additional Rls. 2.9 billion credit from provincial sources has been earmarked for construction of dam and providing electricity.

The president heading a high-ranking delegation including several ministers arrived here Wednesday on a four-day visit.

Present at the ceremony were vice-president for executive affairs, Mohammad Hashemi, minister of agriculture, 'Isa Kalantari and a number of local officials.

Further on Visit To Kordestan

LD1611200295 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj (Kordestan Prov.), Nov. 16, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on Thursday inspected the construction operation of Kavoshan Dam, 35 kms south of Sanandaj. The reservoir dam will supply 500 million cubic meters of water for irrigation of 34,000 hectares of the Kamiaran area as well as 63 million cubic meters of drinking water for the nearby city of Kermanshah. The macadamized dam, with a height of 116 meters and a 160-meter long crest is being built over Qavrud river, a tributary of the Sirvan river. Some rls. 161 billion [rials] has been allocated for work at the dam.

President Rafsanjani arrived in Kamiaran later today and in a emotional address to a large public gathering, said that cameras are not capable of showing the magnitude of the sentiments of the enthusiastic crowd. "Your warm welcome not only encourages the officials of the Islamic Republic, but it also serves to strength the Islamic revolution against the conspiracy of enemies," he said.

The president who was visibly moved by the cheering multitude said that the power of the Islamic revolution and the achievements of the Islamic Republic is all due to the vigilance and consciousness of the people. "You have been at the forefront of the clean-up operation of Kordestan from the notorious groups and protected your homeland," the president said.

On implementation of the infrastructural plans of the city of Kamiaran, he said one of the major works underway is the construction operation of Kavoshan Dam which will serve to change the face of the region. The government has given priority to the demands of Kamiaran and the city will soon be supplied with piped gas through Kermanshah.

Later on Thursday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani arrived in the city of Marivan, near to the Iraqi border, and was accorded a warm welcome by people with folksongs. The president in his address to a large public gathering said: "You, the brave people of Marivan are a model of resistance. Your loyalty and special characteristics will be recorded by history.

"I am impressed by your high spirits and as a servant of the Islamic Republic appreciate your support for the revolution. The people and history of Iran will remain indebted to you for bringing pride to the country in very critical times. "I hope we will succeed in changing the face of the region in future so that we will not see any deprived point in Kordestan."

The president added that the "the leader of the Islamic revolution, the government and Majlis have paid special attention to Kordestan Province and are determined to help remove the dust of deprivation from the region."

Meanwhile, the new building of the Marivan governorate was opened by vice-president for executive affairs, Mohammad Hashemi [Rafsanjani], who forms part of the Rafsanjani's entourage. About rls. one billion have been spent for building the governorate on a 1,460 square meter plot.

Spokesman Denies Connection With Riyadh Bomb

LD1611203095 Tehran IRNA in English 2025 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi today categorically dismissed as "seditious" the recent allegations of the U.S. ambassador in Riyadh, Raymond Mabus, and said Iran has no connection whatsoever with Monday's bomb blast in the Saudi capital. He strongly denounced the mentioning of Iran's name by certain Zionist motivated political- news circles in connection with the blast at the U.S. military facility in Riyadh, and said that "in order to justify U.S. military presence in the region and in Muslim countries, the American ambassador is trying to sow discord among Persian Gulf states."

The November 13 bomb blast at the three-storey American military facility in Riyadh left 6 dead, including five Americans, and 60 others wounded.

Envoy Criticizes UN Security Council's Veto Power

LD1511114895 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations HQ., New York, Nov., 15, IRNA — Iranian ambassador to the United Nations criticized Tuesday the existing veto

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

power exercised at the Security Council and asked for such practice to be eliminated or thoroughly revised to ensure the observance of democratic procedure in the enactment of decisions by the council.

Ambassador Majid Takhteravanchi, who is the deputy representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, spoke on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the security council during the second round session of the General Assembly.

He said the fundamental purpose of reviewing the membership and working method of the Security Council is two-fold, as it includes enhancing the representative character of the council and making it more effective, transparent, legitimate and democratic.

The reason for this endeavor is plain and simple, the official noted and stressed, "we live in a new world. The world gradually changed in the first four decades of the United Nations' operations, but it has significantly altered in the last ten years."

He went on by saying, "during the preceding year, the working group has thoroughly discussed the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters."

Takhteravanchi added, "my delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the co-chairmen of the working group (Sri Lanka and Finland) for their tireless efforts in this difficult exercise. the previous final session of the General Assembly referred the work of the group to the current session and accurately highlighted the fact that further in-depth consideration on key issues is still required."

"In fact, the task of reviewing the composition and working method of the council is very delicate and complex simply because all members of the organization would be, in one way or another, affected by the results," he remarked, further stating that members' participation and invovement in the process are therefore of utmost importance.

It is in this context that transparency in the modus operandi of the working group itself becomes extremely important and essential, he underlined, adding that the procedures should accord a sense of universality to the final decision of the working group.

Takhteravanchi stressed, "we all agree that the task before the working group is as important as it is difficult. It aims to reconstruct the Security Council in order to bring its activities to conform with today's realities. A task of this magnitude requires a strong political will to avoid haste and slipshod work throughout the deliberations of the working group." Therefore, he underlined, we should not lose heart if the progress in the working group has been slow and limited.

"Reflecting the deliberations of the working group, the final report points out that 'important differences continue to exist on key issues before them.' In our view, reflection, deliberation, methodical work, and above all, time, are needed to narrow the divergence of views on these issues," he said.

He also expressed appreciation for the fact that in the meantime, the Security Council has not been aloof to the climate of change and has taken some steps to improve its working method.

He added, "we believe such steps have not been sufficient, and the Security Council still has plenty of room to improve its working method in light of suggestions and proposals introduced in the working group and the current session of the general assembly. in our view, the two clusters on the agenda of the working group are finally a package."

The ambassador continued by warning however, that "this should not be construed that progress in one cluster is technically dependent on the simultaneous progress in the other. Were this to be the case, then one cluster would be hostage to the other—a trend that should be avoided."

He opined that the privileges granted to the victorious countries in the Second World War, are no longer justifiable, underscoring that even 50 years ago, these privileges were challenged.

"The veto power that permits a permanent member of the Security Council to defy majority will and aspirations, is incompatible with the objective of democratizing the United Nations. This power, indeed, questions the very notion and justification of collective security," emphasized Takhteravanchi.

He added, "in line with the reform of the United Nations, the veto power should not be used as it is now, it must be either discarded or, at least, thoroughly reviewed to ensure the democratic procedure of decision-making in the Security Council."

In conclusion, the ambassador extended the Iranian delegation's pledge to fully cooperate in this endeavor in the future.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Commentary: Algerian Elections 'Superficial Display'

LD1611135695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The presidential elections in Algeria, which have been sensationally publicized by the Western press for some weeks now, are taking place today in the midst of heavy security arrangements.

The elections have been prepared through the initiative of the military group ruling over Algeria, with support from Western governments. No other elections have taken place since four years ago when the military group ruling over Algeria declared as null and void the results of the parliamentary elections and banned all democratic bodies in that country, once it carried out the coup d'etat. [passage omitted]

None of the political attempts to solve the ongoing crisis peacefully have come to anything so far. This is because these efforts and moves have always ignored the main parties, especially the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Today's elections in Algeria could be considered as another example of these fruitless attempts to solve the crisis because, not only has the ground not been prepared for the FIS to participate, but the rest of the major parties and formations have boycotted the elections. In this way, only the ruling military clique and a number of small parties affiliated to the military are participating in the elections. This is why even Western press and political circles speak of these elections as a superficial display of democracy and question their legitimacy and credibility.

The important point is that those who have staged the elections are the very same people who usurped power by trampling constitutional law and people's votes. These elections are therefore fundamentally objectionable and wrong, regardless of whether they will be staged properly and fairly. In this respect and without any doubt, the West's extensive efforts to give propaganda support to this superficial show of democracy in Algeria — and even the dispatch of numerous representations from international organizations and bodies — will fail to grant legitimacy to the military rulers of Algeria. This is because this legitimacy can only be acquired through the people on the basis of a constitutional law they support.

Commentary: Algerian Elections 'Unsuccessful'

LD1611224295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2100 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algerian presidential elections — well publicized by the Western media since a while ago — were held amid strict security measures and in an atmosphere of fear. Western governments have supported the elections which were initiated by the ruling military faction. [passage omitted]

Since then the cancellation of the elections, Algeria has been faced with a deep political crisis that has assumed wider dimensions day by day and efforts of the Algerian rulers to resolve them have failed. [passage omitted]

The holding of the elections in Algeria today was another such unsuccessful effort. Not only was the ground was not prepared for the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] to participate in the elections, but other main parties and organizations also boycotted the elections. It is interesting that even the Western press and political forums have described the elections as a pretend democracy and have questioned its legitimacy.

Everyone knows that the organizers of today's elections are the same people who trampled on the free and open vote of the Algerian nation and the country's Constitution through a coup d'etat and by their illegal seizure of power.

Commentary on U.S. 'Mediatory' Role in Afghanistan

NC1611200295 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Oct 95 p 16

[Political commentary: "First War, Then Diplomacy!"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Continuing its role as 'Big Brother' the United States has directed its mediatory efforts toward Afghanistan. The curtain has been lifted on the newest act of the U.S. government's diplomatic drama—following developments at the hands of the Taleban—which has created a new balance in one of the most tyrannized countries of the world. According to the White House foreign policy strategy, the war was a sanguinary phase to clear the path for diplomacy.

Madam Robin Raphael, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs began her assignment by visiting Mazar-e Sharif in Balkh province yesterday. Talks with 'Abdorrashid Dostam and then a visit to Jalalabad for talks with Hekmatyar indicate that Madam Raphael first wants to bring Rabbani's tactical enemies

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

close together and then to disarm Rabbani against his rivals.

However, none of the abovementioned three personalities will have a decisive role in the next act of the U.S. scenario for Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

If the U.S. emissary can convince Rabbani regarding every mediatory plan, she will have accomplished results which would not have been attainable by resorting to the Taleban, who are now wallowing in the vortex of Afghanistan's attritive war. It does not seem that Rabbani will hand over the reins of power to his major rivals easily.

In any case, experience has shown that all kinds of U.S. mediation bring about new conditions in which the first blow is dealt by a government—the American alternative [preceding word in English]—on the people of the country and the abovementioned region.

Even now, the bearers of tidings of peace in Afghanistan are preparing for new security measures with their bloodstained talons. Avoiding them would mean Afghanistan's distancing itself from this vortex and resistance to them would guarantee its future.

Roundtable in Bushehr To Discuss 'Velayat-e Faqih'

LD1311122295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A gathering aimed at explaining [tab'in] the velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult] will be held in Bushehr on 14 November with the participation of the leadership experts and seminary lecturers. Let me draw your attention to our colleague's report from Bushehr:

[Unidentified correspondent] At the gathering — which will be attended by clergymen and ulema from the provinces of Bushehr, Fars, Khuzestan, and Hormozgan — members of the secretariat of the Assembly of Experts, as well as the representatives of people from various provinces on the Assembly of Experts, lecturers, and specialists from seminaries will give talks on issues relating to the velayat-e faqih and will answer questions from the participants in the course of roundtable discussions. Here are further details about the seminar in Bushehr on explaining the velayat-e faqih from Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Fazel Ferdowsi, the representative of the the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in the province and the seminar's chairman.

[Begin Ferdowsi recording] The aim of this seminar is to explain the velayat-e faqih. In other words, if university lecturers and thinkers from this province or neighboring provinces have any problems in their minds relating to the issue of the velayat-e faqih, they can take part in this seminar and we will invite speakers from the Assembly of Experts itself and from elsewhere, such as grand Ayatollahs and learned experts. They will come and, God willing, there will be two roundtable discussions and various issues relating to the principle of the velayat-e faqih and to safeguarding this principle, which is among the fundamental principles of the system of the Islamic Republic, will be raised and the gentlemen will supply the answers, God willing. [end recording]

Embezzlement Verdicts Against 5 Convicts Endorsed

LD1511140595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Verdicts issued on five of the convicts of the Bank Saderat embezzlement case will soon be implemented.

Mohammad Mohammadi-Gilani, chief of the State Supreme Court, this morning spoke to reporters, saying: The State Supreme Court's branch 32 has examined and endorsed the verdicts issued at branch 40 of Tehran's public court on five of the convicts in the Bank Saderat embezzlement case. Mohammadi-Gilani pointed out that examination of the files and verdicts issued over 15 other individuals who were each involved, in one way or another, in the Bank Saderat embezzlement, is continuing. He added: Two of the accused in this embezzlement case, who were on the run, have been arrested in the past few days. [passage omitted]

IRNA Accuses UK Paper of Hostility Toward Iran

LD1511150895 Tehran IRNA in English 1351 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA — THE TIMES of London has got used to attributing any bomb explosion in any part of the world to Iran but surprisingly it falls short of printing any news about the explosions once the main culprits responsible for the blasts are identified and nabbed.

The daily in its Tuesday issue blamed Iran for a bomb explosion in Riyadh, which killed at least six people including five Americans, without presenting any evidence.

THE TIMES had also accused Iran and Islamist groups of being involved in a bomb blast in Oklahoma, the U.S. but when those responsible for the blast were arrested the daily did not withdraw its accusations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In the wake of a bomb blast in a Jewish center in Buenos Aires, the London based daily once again claimed that Iran may have been behind the blast. However, after it was made known that Iran had nothing to do with the Buenos Aires explosion, THE TIMES refused to print any news in this regard.

Last week, the Argentine Government reported the arrest of one Argentine citizen, suspected of involvement in the bomb blast at the Jewish center but this piece of news never appeared in THE TIMES.

In the aftermath of bombing of the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish center in London last year, THE TIMES of London launched a massive propaganda campaign against Iran as a primary suspect in the explosions. After a while, the British police arrested several people in this connection who had no link with Iran. This time too THE TIMES of London did not make any mention to the arrest of the suspects.

Some political observers believe that the press freedom in the West has been turned into an instrument to gain political ends. Many Western media are not willing to publish the realities and very often they refuse to publish the responses of the accused.

Trip by Rafsanjani's Son to West Viewed

96LH0009A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Oct 95 pp 18-19

[Report by Safa' Ha'iri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris — The U.S. secretary of state's appeal to the UN General Assembly for a collective international action against Iran, the sponsor of terrorism, has increased the mullahs' conviction that Washington was determined to carry out an international sanctions plan against them under the slogan "any dollar that enters Iran helps in paying for the terrorists' bombs."

Tehran apparently possesses extremely disturbing information in this regard. This has prompted it to dispatch Mehdi Hashemi-Rafsanjani on a secret visit to Paris to try to stop the American plan and salvage the oil agreement with the French Total Company. According to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI's information, this deal is facing some difficulties. There are signs that U.S. pressure and threats and the difficulties facing the implementation of this deal could prompt Total to cancel its $600 million agreement with Iran, just as Conoco and Shell had done. This could lead to a serious deterioration in the political, economic, and security situations in Iran.

Despite assurances by Iranian leaders and officials of the French Total Oil Company, it seems that the deal for the exploitation of oil and gas fields on Sirri Island, in the Gulf, is facing many complications. Iranian and international oil experts have expressed doubt that the $600 million deal will go through. They believe that Tehran will face a new dilemma and that Mehdi Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iranian president's son and Oil Ministry adviser, who was sent on an urgent mission to Paris, will not succeed in saving Tehran from this dilemma.

It is known that the deal to exploit the two oil fields, Sirri-A and Sirri-E, on the Sirri Island, not far from Dubai, was made following a strong competition among the French Total Company, the Anglo-Dutch Shell Company, and the American Conoco Company. The contract was scheduled to be awarded to the French company not only because it made the best offer, but also because the Sirri oil fields were discovered, before the Islamic Revolution, by experts of the Total Company, in cooperation with the French Alf Company. However, despite official propaganda, the Iranians were keen to draw closer to the "big Satan." They accepted Conoco's bid, although it was higher than the French company's bid and although the Jewish Brunghan family controlled Conoco and a member of this family was due to become the chairman of the World Jewish Congress. Cooperating with the "Zionist enemy" apparently did not disturb the mullahs. They reportedly considered the deal with Conoco a suitable opportunity for rapprochement with Israel.

To deceive and conceal the fact from the Iranian public, the Tehran authorities presented the Conoco Company as a Dutch company (through its Debbon Donomor branch). The Iranian AL-ABRAR newspaper then came out with a headline saying that a huge oil deal has been signed with the Netherlands. The RESALAT newspaper viewed this agreement — the first of its kind since the Islamic Revolution in 1979 — as proof that normal economic relations can be established between Tehran and Washington.

The Iranians signed the agreement on 6 March. However, this $1 billion deal has caused a big scandal in Washington, particularly as it took place at a time when the U.S. Administration was accusing Europe and Japan of not supporting its policy to contain and isolate Iran.

During this time, information had come to light, which further complicated matters. It emerged that bilateral trade between Iran and "the American Satan" had exceeded $4 billion annually. This made Washington Iran's number-one trade partner, even ahead of Germany and Japan. U.S. companies, particularly oil companies, bought Iranian oil worth $4 billion, while U.S. direct and indirect exports to Iran totaled $700 million. This prompted German diplomats to say: "Clinton has been

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

giving us moral lectures about Iran. Yet we discovered that U.S. companies were the biggest contributors to the Iranian terrorist machine. It would be better if he begins by cleaning his own house before accusing others."

This is exactly what happened. Eight days after the deal was signed, Clinton surprised the world by forcing the Conoco Company to cancel its agreement with Iran, dealing a blow to the mullahs.

Furthermore, at the beginning of April, Clinton declared a total economic embargo against Tehran, preempting Republican Senator Alfonso D'Amato's plan to submit a bill to Congress to force foreign companies, particularly the oil companies, not to deal with Iran.

The Iranians then turned to the Shell Company as a substitute to Conoco. However, following a month of difficult negotiations, during which the price of oil equipment to Iran increased four times, Shell withdrew for financial, and not political, reasons. So, the only company that remained in the arena was the French, which hastened to fill the vacuum following consultations with the Presidential Palace and the Foreign Ministry.

When the Iranian agreement with Total was announced, Washington, with Israel's support, initiated a battle with the French Government. However, Paris remained silent. It just affirmed, through Total, that this company does not need an official permission to sign a contract with Iran, because no UN or French embargo exists against Iran. What exists is an American economic embargo, and Total is not a U.S. company.

Tehran seized this opportunity to emphasize its victory over the United States and announce the start of a broad process of cooperation between Iran and France, according to Iranian press headlines. Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Agazadeh-Kho'i regarded the agreement as "an example of future oil agreements between Iran and foreign companies." The radical KEYHAN newspaper wrote then that "oil is the most important source of Iranian revenue. Therefore, Washington chose this sector as the target of its campaign against Islam and the Islamic revolution and canceled the Conoco contract. The agreement signed with France undoubtedly constitutes a big defeat for the United States, which has declared the embargo against Iran."

What is the fate of this contract? Until now, Total's sources affirm that everything is going well, and that the Iranians have accepted the prices submitted to them, without giving any details. However, several sources have begun casting doubts about the deal. The Iranian press said that Coufas (the French company that underwrites foreign investments) had refused to underwrite Total's investment in Iran unless Tehran repaid its debts to France, which are estimated at 700 million francs. When Mehdi Hoseyni, an oil exploration official, was asked about it, he denied any knowledge, but he affirmed that Total has not opened offices in Tehran yet.

International oil sources say that the French company is no longer anxious to go ahead with the deal. They say that Total is concerned and hesitating to make a final commitment because it is afraid of the implications of New York Senator D'Amato's bill. This bill gives foreign companies the option to choose between Iran and the United States. If a company chooses to deal with Iran, its officials will be banned from entering the United States and the company will be prevented from obtaining U.S. technology, buying U.S. Treasury Bills, or operating in the United States. It is noteworthy that this bill is directed against companies and not governments.

According to U.S. reports, Total is afraid about the serious implications of this bill. It has begun looking for an honorable way out of its "Iranian predicament." The solution could come from the French presidential palace. French President Jacques Chirac could oppose this deal and present this concession to his friend Bill Clinton during their forthcoming meeting in the White House in November. An Iranian expert said that the red light, which the French presidential palace could give to Total, would help Clinton in his election campaign. France would become the first European state to support the U.S. position against Iran. At the same time, Chirac's initiative would allow the U.S. President to resist D'Amato's bill, which the White House and the State Department consider as extremely harsh.

Iran needed this agreement more than the French company for psychological and financial reasons. Tehran had to prove to the people, at any price, that Iran could foil the U.S.-Zionist plot. Furthermore, Iran needed foreign currency. Its foreign currency revenues this year will not exceed $12 billion, while its expenditure is estimated at $20 billion.

Some experts note the existence of an Iranian constitutional obstacle to the deal with Total. Although not all the details of the oil agreement have been revealed, what is known is that Total will fully finance the deal. Production from the two fields will begin within three years and will reach 120,000 barrels daily. The oil reserves in Sirri-E are estimated at 435 million barrels and 50 million in Sirri-A. The gas reserves are estimated at 100 million cubic meters. The French company is expected to market it, and has begun negotiations with Dubai for this purpose.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Pahman Karpasyun, an independent Iranian expert in Vienna, says that the Iranian Constitution almost prohibits any direct foreign investment, particularly in the oil industry. He adds that the Islamic Republic has made concessions by allowing the conclusion of a joint venture to enable it to sign this agreement.

Another expert says that granting equal partnership with foreign companies is contrary to existing Islamic laws in Iran. He notes that the Petroleum Ministry's statistics and data are unreliable. Iran normally manipulates the figures.

In a recent speech, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani denied the existence of a financial crisis. He declared that Iran's revenues this year (ending on 21 March 1996) will reach $20 billion. We can live well on half this amount, he added.

However, the figures provided by Iranian and international experts are not as optimistic. The Iranian petroleum minister admitted that since the U.S. ban on American companies, Iran has not sold more than 400,000 barrels of oil a day. The Americans were buying 600,000 barrels. Informed sources affirmed that Iran's oil revenues have been cut by $4 billion; that is, the amount the Americans used to import. The Iranian foreign trade minister also confirmed this when he said, at a recent meeting, that the deterioration in Iranian oil production has led to a drop in oil revenues from $30 billion to $8 billion, because of lack of investments and spare parts.

Observers agree that the U.S. embargo has shaken the economic situation and contributed to a deterioration in the political and social situations in Iran. People arriving from Tehran have reported that since Clinton's decision, most prices went up, particularly basic commodities. This is making life more difficult for millions of Iranians. An Iranian expert says that 60 percent of the people live below the poverty line, and the middle class is finding it difficult to meet its needs, even with the husband and wife working four jobs.

To deal with this explosive situation and any possible popular demonstrations, the regime has increased security patrols, particularly by the more violent groups that carry the name "al-Munkarat." At the same time, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i has issued orders to the Revolutionary Guards to increase the number of the 'Ashura' Brigades in Tehran and the major cities. The 'Ashura' Brigades are commando units specializing in the suppression of demonstrations. This was made clear by Revolutionary Guards Commander General Mohsen Reza'i when he warned that "the Revolutionary Guards are prepared to crush any uprising, rebellion, or demonstration against our sacred regime and leaders."

Iranian Sociologist Ihsan Naragi, who is close to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, says that another disturbing factor was the increasing differences among the regime leaders. He says: "The issue of the Morg and Amin Library proves that the mullahs are no longer able to hide their differences and have begun to hang their dirty linen on the roof."

A Hezbollah group burned and destroyed this publication house last month for publishing a book by an unknown writer that was contradictory to Islamic values. The book had passed Islamic censorship. Although the police knew the perpetrators, none of them was arrested. Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the official in charge of this group and in charge of the influential Islamic Propagation Organization, warned the government against making any attempt to arrest the troublemakers. He said: "No one has the right to detain members of Hezbollah when they carry out the task that the government was supposed to carry out." Jannati said in his Friday sermon that Ayatollah Khomeyni had clearly indicated that Hezbollah's duty is to intervene when the government and the other responsible institutions fail to fulfill their duties and responsibilities. "Remember that our dear imam's instructions are of a divine nature, and should be above all laws and even above the Constitution," he said. Jannati's sermon provoked strong reactions in the pro-government press, such as ETTELA'AT, and in the radical leftist press, such as SALAM. This paper said that "the sermon of Jannati, who is supposed to make sure that laws are implemented, will not only weaken the government, but will also encourage anarchy."

The next day, at the personal instigation of Jannati, Hezbollah's gangs organized demonstrations outside some newspaper offices, shouting slogans: "Death to SALAM. We will kill whoever doubts the will of the imam."

U.S. Relations, Dual Containment Viewed

95AE0054A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 18 Aug 95 pp 21-22

[Unattributed article: "Attempt To Return Iran to American 'House of Obedience'; White House Alludes to Fifth Fleet 'To Discipline' Islamic Republic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris—The French Government establishment has been trying to distinguish itself from the U.S. ally since General De Gaulle's administration. This endeavor has been reflected clearly in near-complete independence within NATO. Paris has maintained its free movement and has continued the policy of safeguarding its interests, which have ordinarily contradicted U.S. interests, in Africa and the Middle East. This French uniqueness grew under the umbrella of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Cold War and of bilateral international polarization, taking advantage of this polarization to reinforce its special characteristics.

But during Mitterrand's second term (1988-95), which coincided with the collapse of the Soviet pole, the features of this independence diminished in the interest of fusion in the U.S. position. However, they have reappeared with President Chirac and in the most controversial regional arena, i.e. Iran. The Americans have imposed a blockade on Iran to "discipline it" and have created a special fleet, namely the Fifth Fleet, to deal with it. This fleet consists of 2 nuclear submarines, 15 warships, an aircraft carrier, and 10,000 troops.

U.S. strategic experts have recently disclosed that this fleet's "objective is to confront the Iranian forces." This is why they have watched closely the recent exercises carried out by the Baserdan (Revolutionary Guard) in the Gulf. Nearly 58,000 troops took part in some of these exercises which lasted eight days. The exercises coincided with the seventh anniversary of the U.S. fleet's downing of a U.S. civilian airliner carrying 271 passengers.

The same strategic experts justify this amassment against Iran by Iran's possession of two Kilo submarines and anti-vessel missile bases near the strait of Hormuz. There is also the Iranian nuclear dimension which the United States tries to nullify, believing that the Iranian nuclear reactor deal concluded on 8 January 1995 has military teeth to it.

Paris does not, of course, embrace this U.S. intensity and it has other, different calculations. From the outset, Paris, like the German capital, expressed its reservation on the U.S. trade embargo decision and it has not concealed its wish to fill the U.S. void on the basis of the same distinction in foreign policy. Total, a French oil company, embarked three years ago on negotiations with Tehran, at least on joint prospecting and production projects. It tried to take the opportunity when Conoco, a U.S. firm, withdrew. Prime Minister Alain Juppe, who was foreign minister at the time, was eager to cast doubt on the effectiveness of "unilateral decisions." He pointed out that he "does not believe that there is an emergency to justify the U.S. decision."

In fact, Total coupled words with deeds and concluded a $1 billion deal to develop two oil fields. By Iranian criteria, this deal is the biggest deal concluded by Tehran with a foreign firm since the revolution in 1979. For Total, the deal represents a trade and political coup that abridges the French ambition to return to the Gulf as a favorite partner of Tehran's. Washington has expressed its reservation on this deal which is on its way to implementation. Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh has said with some sort of "excessive self-confidence" that the accord with Total, the French firm, is the model for 11 accords that Tehran plans to conclude with foreign firms within the framework of the second five-year plan (1995-2000).

Aqazadeh disclosed that the Iranian National Petroleum Company has invited international contractors to visit Tehran shortly to acquaint themselves with the 11 projects that are similar to the Total deal. He pointed out that the "value of the contract" with total amounts to $600,000 [as published] plus the contractor's profits. The actual cost will be paid from the revenues of the two fields within five years after the start of production, which will be in three years. Within the same context, Aqazadeh noted that Siri's expected production for the next 25 years, amounting to 100 million cubic feet of gas daily, has been sold to Total at the same price as in the previous contract, i.e. the contract with the Conoco, the U.S. firm. This production will be exported to Dubayy. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh also noted that the contract is not on the basis of the delivery of a "finished project" but on the basis of the contracting company's recovery of its capital costs and of its making profits from the project sales.

In view of this French penetration of the U.S. embargo, Washington rushed to present a protest memorandum to Paris, asking it not to advance official loans to Iran. Nicholas Burns, the U.S. State Department spokesman, said that his country was "in very profound disagreement with France over the deal because the Total Company deal sends the Iranian leadership the wrong message at the wrong time. We don't want the French Government to offer Iran financial benefits. We don't believe that it is in France's interest to stand idle in order to make a short-profit gain while sacrificing its long-term interests which are exposed to evident danger."

So, it is check oil in some sort of a French-U.S. match on the Iranian chessboard—a match accompanied by nail biting and head-butting by "leaders." All this is likely to worsen. The disagreement is due to various considerations and different calculations. Perhaps in this case, Paris is closer to the pragmatism of U.S. firms than to the ideology of the U.S. Administration. Most U.S. firms have cast doubts on the effectiveness of the economic embargo U.S. President Clinton imposed at the beginning of last May, urging these firms and their branches to suspend their activities and investments in Iran. He justified his decision by Tehran's support for "terrorism" and by its "military nuclear aspirations."

It is certain that General Electric, one of the biggest international U.S. corporations in Iran, dismissed its Iranian employees and closed its offices in Tehran

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

recently. The corporation was selling locomotives to Iranian railroads.

Boeing and Caterpillar, which produced equipment for public works, have also frozen their activities. IBM, the giant computer company, and Coca Cola have followed suit.

One exception in the U.S. embargo is embodied in permitting U.S. firms to purchase oil from Iran, provided that they don't sell it in the United States. It is well-known that more than 20 percent of the Iranian oil (400,000-600,000 barrels daily) is purchased by U.S. firms for a sum of nearly $4 billion annually. The U.S. alternative now is Colombia or producers in the region of the GCN Energy Corporation, which specializes in brokering raw materials. Larry Goldstein, head of the Oil Industry Research Institute, believes that the "U.S. embargo will have an invisible impact on Iran, but it will make U.S. firms less able to compete in the world markets."

There is no doubt that the embargo by itself is ineffective. The U.S. Administration does not exaggerate about the effects of this kind of embargo which can be breached easily and which does not lead to the desired results. There is a multifaceted and multi-shaped Iranian-Russian cooperation, including nuclear cooperation which is said to comply with the specifications of the International Nuclear Energy Agency and with the treaty on the non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons. Moreover, French-Iranian cooperation is also active, not to mention the trade bond between Tehran and Bonn which have an annual trade exchange amounting to $5 billion. This means a European refusal to join the embargo policy against Iran.

This is why the United States has resorted to creating the Fifth Fleet, which has tactical nuclear capabilities. Experts of the military section and Iran section at the National Security Council wave this stick, which is also waved by Secretary Christopher who goes to the end of the line in his radicalism against Tehran. A Washington commentator has said in this regard, "The U.S. secretary of state sounds like a 'dove' in all Middle Eastern capitals, but he suddenly turns into a 'hawk' when the issue concerns Iran and Iraq." He added. "President Bush had his battle in Iraq and his successor, President Clinton, may deal his blow to Iran." It is to be noted that "this blow may not be a war or a landing, but most likely it will be an embargo in which the instrument will be the Fifth Fleet that was created recently."

What is interesting is that Washington is trying now to create a broader base for implementing this disciplinary policy against Iran. It is working with European parliaments to have them take positions that apply pressure in this direction. Washington has also asked the industrial countries' summit in Halifax to issue a statement denouncing Tehran, but these countries' calculations are in a different world. Moreover, China has announced a doubling of its oil purchases from Iran. It is also carrying on with its close military cooperation with Tehran. Moreover, it is offering Tehran soft-term loans to finance a number of giant projects, including two nuclear reactors, one of which is on the Caspian Sea. The same formula applies to Japan, Iran's number two trade partner, that has supplied Tehran with loans amounting to $2 billion over a period of 25 years.

There is no doubt that Paris is the European capital whose Iran policy is most independent of the United States. Paris is Tehran's number five trade partner. Today, more than 20 French firms are operating in the fields of energy, transportation, and oil and implementing major development and construction projects. The Paris-Tehran bilateral relations are moving at an accelerating pace, as indicated by all graphs and statistical indicators.

Beyond its immediate and visible effects, the economic sanctions policy Washington has imposed is coupled with invisible, though dramatic, ramifications in the Iranian domestic policy arena. This policy of sanctions wipes out any hope of any opening up in the approach of President Rafsanjani, who still has two years remaining on his term in office. A European envoy believes that Rafsanjani's window has been closed, that Washington has not offered him a face-saving solution, that the Iranians are drained, and that the majority of them aspires for change. This envoy added, "Time is needed to move in a direction different from that of the revolution. The danger lies currently in the absence of alternatives capable of action." The envoy has pointed out that President Rafsanjani has been leading the gradual change tendency since he was at the head of the Iranian Consultative Council. Despite the Iranian president's record, the Americans continue to be, in their dealings with Iran, captives of a mentality formulated between 1979 and 1981 during detention of the U.S. hostages after the seizure of Washington's embassy in Tehran.

The Iranian president is certainly in an unenviable position now. He tried to "open the door" ajar to Washington through his interesting interview with CNN on the eve of commemoration of the seventh anniversary of the downing of the Iranian airbus. He expressed the view that it would be better to have some sort of economic and cultural relations between the two countries. These words aroused a storm among zealots and radicals who assailed President Rafsanjani, thus compelling him to back down on the "extended hand"

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

policy and to deliver a sermon to a congregation, criticizing the "unjust U.S. logic." 'Ali Khamene'i, the revolution leader, escalated his violent rhetoric against Washington, accusing it of being the "source of problems, decadence, and hypocrisy." There was an obvious competition between the silk glove and the iron fist, and it turned out to be in favor of the latter. However, a source close to the revolution leader has acknowledged that Khamene'i is not totally opposed to relations with Washington, provided that such relations are balanced.

These internal conflicts cannot conceal a living crisis with unprecedented dimensions. The revolution had promised to provide electricity, gas, and water free of charge and to exempt essential goods from taxes through the so-called "oil share," i.e. each citizen's share of the oil revenues. Some people wonder: Where is the promise made by Dr. Mohammad Mofatteh, a cleric (assassinated after the revolution) who was close to Imam Khomeyni? Mofatteh declared in a sermon he delivered at Qaba Mosque, Tehran, three days after the imam's return from his exile in France that "after the revolution, every Iranian citizen is entitled to $270 monthly as a share of the oil revenues."

Dailies such as SALAM, KOL AGHA, and HAMSHAHRI report on daily tragedies and on the blocked social horizon.

Amidst these developments, the revolution leader could do nothing but resort to invisible solutions and to tying political authority to religious authority as the guarantee that prevents fissures in the political governorship. On assignment by the Supreme National Security Council, a special committee—comprised of an adviser to President Rafsanjani, a Khamene'i representative, and representatives of several agencies and ministries—has submitted a confidential report dealing with the various problems and challenges facing Iran currently and warning that the regime could be shaken seriously under the umbrella of the populations worsening living conditions, especially in the five major cities, plus the capital. Meanwhile, Isfahan seems to be like a "gunpowder keg" because of its industrial infrastructure which is operating only partially as a result of the shortage of spare parts and of dependence on imported raw materials.

It has been reported by reliable circles that in light of this report and others, new steps and measures have been taken in various spheres to protect Iranian national security and to bolster the domestic front.

The report cites several types of threats, including centers that are working for secession, deteriorating social and living conditions, and proliferating bureaucratic and administrative corruption.

[Begin box, p 22]

U.S. Dual Containment Catastrophe Unites Baghdad and Tehran!

The secret war between Washington and Tehran is getting active on a background of the U.S. economic embargo and of the creation of a special U.S. fleet whose task is to cordon off the Iranian shores and to jam their radar communication systems. Experts, including William Quandt, believe that despite the reluctance of European allies, the U.S. Administration carries on with its plan to "count Iran's breaths," thus creating a prelude for a storm of a new sort and largely similar to the storm against Iraq.

Meanwhile, tactical relations are being developed between Baghdad and Tehran on the basis that the catastrophe combines the two victims. However, these relations may not reach the extent of bartering the Iranian opposition in Iraq for the Iraqi opposition in Iran, as it has been rumored.

Arrivals from the Iranian capital as well as from the provincial capitals, such as Isfahan, Tebriz, Meshed, and Derfol [as transliterated], say that the pace of roving explosions, especially at night, has reached unfamiliar levels and that the wave has reached the center of Tehran, where a booby-trapped vehicle exploded near Azadi, i.e. freedom, Square which is tantamount to the center of the capital. Officials of the interior and intelligence (Ettila'at) ministries, led by Mohammad 'Ali Besharati and 'Ali Falahyan, have accused Mojahed-e Khalq. This movement had previously accused the Iranian Revolutionary Guard of liquidating a number of the movement's supporters and active members in Baghdad itself. Numerous observers have tied the assassination of a number of Mojahed-e Khalq members in Baghdad with the wave of recent explosions that have rocked Tehran and provincial towns. These observers have also concluded that the talk about normalization between the Iraqi regime and the Islamic Republic is no more than seasonal propaganda and that the reality is different, even though Tehran has closed a camp belonging to Badr Forces, the military arm of Iraq's Islamic Revolution Supreme Council, headed by Shaykh Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim. This closure is not meant so much to harass this fundamentalist Iraqi opposition faction as it is part of an internal reorganization. It is not likely that Tehran will abandon as easily as some imagine the Iraqi opposition that has lived in its territories for the past 16 years and that has become a part of the regime. Moreover, Baghdad will not easily abandon the Iranian opposition that has lived on its territories since the early 1980s. Those who talk about a possible bartering of Rajavi's "head" for al-Hakim's "head" are

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

engaging in some sort of political "folly" at best and in some sort of political "fantasy" at worst, especially since caution continues to master relations between Baghdad and Tehran despite the same "catastrophe" that unites them, namely the U.S. dual containment of both countries.

Those knowledgeable in the character and security structure of Baghdad's regime note that the actions inflicted on Mojahed-e Khalq in Baghdad could be some sort of "disengagement" or "message of intentions" to Tehran. The "permission" for the attack on Ashraf Camp, which is the biggest base for Mas'ud Rajavi's men, located 95 km southeast of Baghdad and 65 km from the Iranian border, is also a "message," despite media denunciation of the attack. The Tehran and Baghdad regimes share a common concern, namely the "U.S. dual containment," i.e. international isolation and blockade.

If Baghdad is the first, then Tehran will follow. There is no better proof of this than the accusations made by Ambassador Philip Wilcox, the coordinator of counter-intelligence activities at the U.S. State Department, that Tehran continues to embrace, finance, and lead a number of terrorist groups. Wilcox, addressing a meeting on cooperation to deter and wipe out international terrorism, urged "relentless international cooperation" to confront Tehran. This meeting was held to prepare for the American States Conference which is scheduled to be held in the U.S. capital next December.

In a "scorching" address, the U.S. official said, "We in the American States are also threatened by terrorism. Let us go back with our memory to the attacks carried out in recent years in Argentina and the United States. The terrorist threat is growing these days, and terrorists use extremely sophisticated means... Even though state-assisted terrorism has diminished because of international sanctions, it is imperative to continue these sanctions and stiffen them."

Wilcox added, "President Clinton has stiffened the sanctions against Tehran. We want other countries to do the same." He noted that the "attempt on President Mubarak's life, carried out by terrorists from the Armed Group, confirms that this group is engaged in activity beyond Egypt's border." The U.S. official in charge of the international terrorism file pointed out that the "Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf group was planning with other groups to blow up U.S. airliners over the Pacific Ocean, according to a plan discovered by the Philippine authorities.

So, there is no strategic deal between Baghdad and Tehran and there is no bartering of Mas'ud Rajavi for Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim. Rather, what exists is tactical and circumstantial relations which try to give the impression that the two capitals are united in confronting the U.S. storm. If the blockade launched against Baghdad five years ago continues—and there are no indications that it will be lifted soon because it is tied more to Saddam Husayn's stay at the regime's head than to progress on the files on mass destruction weapons—then a new version of this blockade threatens to blow on Iran no later than next fall. [end box]

Student Association Discusses Future Role of Clergy

NC1611141395 Tehran SALAM in Persian 4 Nov 95 p 2

[From the News Desk]

[FBIS Translated Text] "An Appraisal of the Esteemed Role of the Clergy in the Islamic Movements in the Future" entitles the session that is to be held by the Islamic Students Association of Tehran University and Tehran Medical Sciences University.

The Association's statement says: In view of the encouraging by the His Eminence Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him) and in the light of the recent remarks by the great leader [Khamene'i], a session will be convened on the role of the clergy.

This session is to be held on 7 November at the Tehran University mosque following the afternoon prayers.

Majles Speaker: Women's Status Higher Than in Europe

LD1511151495 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA — "We claim that the status of the Iranian women is far higher than that of the European women," Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here Wednesday.

Addressing a group of women on the occasion of the women's week, the speaker referred to condition of women in Europe and said that patriarchy still prevails over Europe, the real values of women are far from being recognized and the female population is still treated as a commodity.

He added that women in the European society is humiliated since it is used for promoting consumer products and profit purposes. Even a greater insult on women is using them in obscene films, he added.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri further told the group that thanks to the guidelines of the late Imam Khomeyni and the triumph of the 1979 Islamic revolution, the Iranian woman has regained her true identity.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Following the victory of the revolution the Iranian women inspired by religious teachings and virtue have rapidly moved up, progressed and scored significant gains such was the case of impressing success of Iranian girls at the international olympiads.

As for the representation of women in the Majles, the speaker said that the number of female deputies have steadily increased over the past terms and it is expected that the trend will be even faster in future.

Joint Stock Firm To Collaborate Internationally

NC2710213695 Mashhad EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY in Persian 21 Oct 95 p

[FBIS Translated Text] The Company for Investment and Development of Mines and Metals (a joint stock company), which is being established with public participation, will incorporate peripheral industries linked to the mother industries and will collaborate with Central Asian countries, southeast Asia, as well as import and export companies on the international level in its various trading activities.

Seyyed Da'ud Yasrabi, the executive official for the establishment of the Company for Investment and Development of Mines and Metals announced the above and added: This company will set up a production chain in the field of mines and industries and the construction of other ancillary units by utilizing the services of the experts in the country. It will also steer liquidity, as well as large and small investments, to the production sector. Regarding the various areas of the company's activities, he said: Collaboration in industries affiliated to the mother industries such as the ferro-chrome, galvanizing, electrode [preceding three words in English] industries and hydraulic unit [preceding two words in English] manufacturing plants, various kinds of cast iron, scrap metal, production lines for transforming iron and metal sheets into finished and semi-finished goods, utilization of processed minerals in the production network for chemical and agricultural products, the coal industry and its processing into fuel and energy, food and construction related industries, are among the vast spectrum of industrial-mineral activities which will be undertaken by the Company for Investment and Development of Mines and Metals.

Semnan Firm Exports Ferrosilicon to Germany, Italy

LD1411151695 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Semnan, Nov. 14, IRNA — Some 200 tons of Ferrosilicon material were exported to Germany and Italy by the Iran Ferrosilcon Company, said the company director here Tuesday [14 November].

Vakilian told IRNA that the total exports of the company have been 500 tons in the past seven months. The Ferrosilicon company of Semnan produces some 25,000 tons of ferrosilicon annually with a purity of 75 percent. It is also capable of exporting 10 to 15 thousand tons of the alloy.

Ferrosilicon is an alloy mainly used in steel and cast iron industries.

Pakistan

Differences With Tehran on Afghanistan Revealed

BK1711093495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Nov 95 p 1,4

[Report by Aboosa Alam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov 16 — Pakistan Thursday [16 November] for the first time officially admitted that there was a difference of perception between Iran and Pakistan over the major question as to who will be the central force in Afghanistan in case a broad-based government representing all Afghan factions is established in Kabul.

Replying to a volley of questions about Prime Minister Bhutto's visit to Tehran and its impact on Afghanistan situation, Foreign Office spokesman was constrained to say that "there is an agreement on objectives in Afghanistan between Iran and Pakistan to have a lasting peace, however, while Tehran envisages a central role for Rabbani regime in future government, Pakistan does not hold the same views", but he said, Pakistan does not see this minor difference of opinion growing into larger issue between the two friendly countries. Without mentioning that a close contact ever existed over the question of Afghanistan between Iran and Pakistan, the spokesman repeatedly said that during PM's visit the two countries have agreed to consult each other in future before taking any decision on Afghanistan.

He said even if the Iranian government wants Rabbani regime to be the central element in any future arrangements in Kabul, mere remains a complete agreement between the two countries about the establishment of a broad-based government in Kabul according to the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan.

Replying to question whether the question of Taleban was raised during Mr Bhutto's talks with the Iranian leadership and if Tehran was satisfied by the position taken by Pakistan Premier on the issue, the spokesman offered a very short reply saying that Iran wants Rabbani

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

regime to be the central element whereas it is not acceptable to Taleban, other Afghan groups as well as to Pakistan.

"Pakistan is aware of this phenomenon and intends to consult Iran in future over this issue", he said.

Replying to questions about foreign minister's visit to Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul terming it as interference into its internal matters, the spokesman said that Pakistan believes in the continuation of dialogue with all the Afghan parties and Sardar Asif's visit to Mazar-e-Sharif was part of those efforts. He refused to comment when asked if the foreign minister had sought visa from Afghan embassy in Islamabad.

Further elaborating his point the spokesman said that Pakistan was working hard to build consensus among the different warring factions in order to achieve longer lasting peace for the construction and rehabilitation of that country.

He said that since Kabul regime is physically unable to control some of areas in Afghanistan, Pakistan has to visit those areas to carry on its efforts.

To yet another question, the spokesman said that the legitimacy of Rabbani government ran out some time back but Pakistan continues to have diplomatic relations with Kabul since it has accepted its representative in Pakistan.

Replying to question whether Islamabad was in touch with Rabbani regime as part of its policy of talking to every group in Afghanistan in order to build consensus, the spokesman said that Pakistan was engaged in dialogue with Rabbani indirectly through UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri.

Asked if Pakistan had shifted from its earlier position not to talk to Rabbani unless Kabul apologised and paid full compensation for property and human loss during the arson of Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul, he said that Pakistan still maintains that position and was communicating through Mahmoud Mestiri.

Responding to reports in the press about Pakistan's refusal to grant visa to Sardar Wali, son-in-law of King Zahir Shah, the spokesman said that it was the timing with which Pakistan did not agreement the issuance of visa. He said Sardar Wali Khan is one of the Afghan parties with which Pakistan is willing to discuss Afghan issue. "But we feel that time is not yet ripe and appropriate for his visit to Pakistan."

We would like to receive him in Pakistan when the situation has matured for such visit, he said.

Commenting on the position Uzbekistan has taken over the legitimacy of Rabbani government during Prime Minister' visit to Tashkent, the spokesman said that Uzbekistan has never been in a position where it had to commit itself over the question of Rabbani's legitimacy. However, he said Pakistan and Uzbekistan share the same perception on Afghanistan that there should be a broad based government including all parties and ethnic groups.

The Iranian press has been constantly publishing the reports about Pak-Iran differences over Afghanistan and Pakistan had always denied the existing of any such difference.

The fall of Herat, a traditionally Iranian influenced province, to Taleban further aggravated the relations between Iran and Pakistan.

Though the spokesman had termed the difference of opinion a minor issue, it has been the main source of stalemate in a political solution for Afghan conflict.

While all the parties in Afghanistan had put Rabbani's resignation as a pre-condtion for the cease-fire in Afghanistan, Rabbani refused to step down.

Instead Rabbani insisted even after the siege of Kabul that his party should be given central position in the future broad-based government.

Till todate the peace efforts by UN and OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] are being jeopardised and bogged down because of Rabbani's refusal to step down without guarantees that his party will have a major share in any future government.

So far it was widely believed that it was only India which was extending moral and military help to Kabul to sustain attacks from three sides of Kabul but it seems now that Rabbani is also getting pat on his back from the Iranian leadership.

The spokesman said that Pakistan and Iran want a peaceful solution to the conflict in Afghanistan which would be based on a consensus between all the groups there and would include all parties, sects and ethnic groups.

He said, during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to Iran, she discussed the Afghan situation with President Rafsanjani and shared the objective of restoring peace in Afghanistan which would be based on consensus between all groups and parties.

Replying to a question the spokesman said: "The press and other information agencies in Iran have their own positions and their own points of views — they are subject to various influences — so one does not

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

necessarily attribute their views to the government of Iran."

"There is a difference of approach between what Iran wants — they believe that the Rabbani groups as a central element — now there can be a difference of opinion on this — the other Afghan groups feel that the Rabbani regime should not be a central element in a new consensus," he said.

He said the agreements signed between Pakistan and Iran during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit are expected to provide greater impetus to bilateral collaboration in economic fields.

During Prime Minister's visit Iran reaffirmed its traditional support on Kashmir, he said.

"The two sides agreed that the oppression of the Kashmiri people remained a source of tension in the region, they underlined the importance of finding a solution to the Kashmir problem in accordance with UN resolutions."

The PM, he said, welcomed President Rafsanjani's mediation efforts in this regard.

'Peaceful Solution' Sought

LD1611120395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that both Pakistan and Iran want a peaceful solution of Afghan problem based on consensus and inclusion of all parts [as heard] and ethnic groups in the future set-up. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad, he said both the countries have the same objectives for Afghanistan. He said Iran wants Rabbani regime as a central element in the new consensus government, but other Afghan groups oppose it.

About Kabul regime's protest on the visit of foreign minister to Mazar-e Sharif, the spokesman said in the past such visits had taken place and there was no opposition to them from Afghanistan. He said Pakistan wishes to bring about a consensus among all the Afghan parties. He said Pakistan is in touch with the UN personal envoy on Afghanistan, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, on the issue.

About prime minister's visit to Iran, the spokesman said Iran reaffirmed its support to Pakistan on Kashmir problem. The prime minister briefed the Iranian leaders on the latest situation in occupied Kashmir. He said the two sides underlined the importance of finding a solution to Kashmir problem in accordance with the UN resolution.

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Government Offensive Near Jaffna

Kondavil Falls

BK1711032095 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 15 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Government troops participating in Operation Riviresa [Sunshine] continued their advance towards Jaffna on Monday [13 November] and captured the strategic town of Kondavil as rebels fleeing the area destroyed the main telecommunications tower in Jaffna.

Defence sources in Colombo said rebels were "resorting to destruction of public property in sheer desperation". Troops based at Mandaitivu island about two kilometres away from the Jaffna town have seen the collapse of the telecom tower on Monday evening.

They said the capture of Kondavil, where the Tiger political headquarters was located, was another major blow to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

The operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defence said the army's 52nd division commanded by Brigadier P.A. Karunatilake and assisted by Brigadier Anton Wijendra advancing along the western flank captured a large terrorist camp two kilometres south of Urumpirai.

It said the training camp contained a network of roads, lecture halls and underground bunkers. A stockpile of military equipment left behind by the Tigers was also recovered.

"Terrorists initially resisted the advance with mortars, but retreated as the army retaliated with artillery. One soldier was killed in action in Monday's fighting while one officer and 27 soldiers were injured. Troops recovered seven terrorist bodies, but the Tiger death toll is believed to be much higher," the headquarters said.

"The 52nd division is now continuing the advance along the eastern flank, under resistance," it said.

Meanwhile, the 51st division commanded by Brigadier Neil Dias and assisted by Brigadier Sarath Fonseka, encountered anti-personnel mines and enemy resistance during their advance on the eastern flank.

The advance was reported to be slow due to the heavy concentration of mines in their path.

Riviresa operations are directed by Overall Operations Commander in the North Major-General Rohan

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daluwatte, assisted by Major- General Srilal Weerasooriya. It was begun on October 17 when thousands of heavily armed infantrymen backed by air cover, armour and artillery broke out of the Forward Defended Localities (FDLs) of the Palaly military complex in the Jaffna peninsula and moved southwards. They have already captured and consolidated their positions in Achchuveli, Navakkeri, Achchelu, Urelu, Neerveli, Urumpirai and Kopai North.

Defence sources in Colombo dismissed a statement issued by an overseas office of the LTTE which claimed that the offensive has resulted in damage to civilian property. "We have not destroyed civilian property. We take all precautions to ensure that civilian lives and property are safe".

The military offensive has so far claimed the lives of more than 1,400 LTTE cadres including Akila, the leader of the Women's Wing. The army has lost 320 men.

In another incident, two soldiers were killed and two more were wounded Monday when rebels ambushed a security forces' patrol in Vantharamullai, two kms north of Chenkalady in Batticaloa district.

Soldiers killed three rebels who tried to escape during a search operation in Pooneryn on Monday.

A police constable was kidnapped on Monday at Talaimannar by a group of unknown persons.

Two TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] members who tried to defuse an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by suspected LTTE cadres at Araipattai, Batticaloa, were killed when the device exploded.

Rebels Suffer 'Heavy' Casualties

BK1611163895 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 16 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defence said rebel transmissions indicated that they have suffered heavy casualties in Tuesday's [14 November] fighting, which also left one soldier dead. Two officers and 30 soldiers were wounded.

"The number of terrorists killed and wounded is expected to be high due to the nature of the confrontations," it said.

Troops advanced cautiously on Tuesday due to enemy mines and moderate resistance. Soldiers advancing along the Eastern flank encountered resistance from the east across the lagoon from Kaithady.

"Heavy machine gun fire and mortar fire delayed the forces, but they overcame it successfully and continued their progress on the Point-Pedro Jaffna road", the headquarters said.

Earlier on Monday, troops captured the strategic town of Kondavil where the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] political headquarters was located, dealing another blow to the LTTE.

The army's 52nd division is commanded by Brigadier P.A. Karunatilake and assisted by Brigadier Anton Wijendra.

The 51st division is commanded by Brigadier Neil Dias and assisted by Brigadier Sarath Fonseka.

Riviresa [Sunshine — name of military offensive] operations are directed by Overall Operations Commander in the North Major General Rohan Daluwatte, assisted by Major General Srilal Weerasooriya. It began on October 17 when thousands of heavily armed infantrymen backed by air cover, armour and artillery broke out of the Forward Defended Localities (FDLs) of the Palaly military complex in the Jaffna peninsula and moved southwards.

They have already captured and consolidated their positions in Achchuveli, Navakkeri, Achchelu, Puttur, Urelu, Neerveli, Urumpirai, Kopai North, Kopai South and Kondavil.

The military offensive has so far claimed the lives of more than 1,400 LTTE cadres including Akila, the leader of the Women's Wing, military officials say. The army has lost 320 men.

Reports reaching Colombo from the North said all important Tiger leaders have fled to Kilinochchi on the mainland.

In another incident, four soldiers were killed and three more wounded on Tuesday when Tigers ambushed a security forces' patrol in Vantharamullai, 2 km north of Chenkalady in eastern Batticaloa district. Troops repulsed the attack. Five civilians died in the crossfire.

LTTE Intelligence Camp Captured

BK1711060895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 17 (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops have captured the Tamil Tiger guerrillas' intelligence training camp in Jaffna, as they bunker down in preparation for a final drive against the stronghold, the military said Friday.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

One of the two military training camps taken by soldiers at Kopai on the outskirts of Jaffna town on Wednesday was used by the intelligence wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), military officials said.

The underground centre was known as "Bosmo" after the psuedonym of an LTTE guerrilla who headed the LTTE's intelligence operations in Jaffna, the officials said. It comprised a lecture hall and several rooms.

The LTTE intelligence section is an elite unit and is headed by a veteran known by his nom de guerre Pottu Amman, who is wanted by New Delhi for the 1991 assassination of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The takeover followed the capture of an underground Tamil Tiger hospital at Neerveli, its political headquarters at Kondavil and the Tamil Eelam Development Organisation (TEEDO) by troops in quick succession in the past one week.

Kopai, Neeveli and Kondavil are all located in the northern peninsula of Jaffna and on the way to Jaffna town, the capital of a sprawling de facto state the LTTE has run in Sri Lanka's north since 1990.

The military says it is within a kilometer (0.6 mile) from the outer limits of Jaffna town.

'Amnesty' Offered to Rebels

BK1711081795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0758 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 17 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan military Friday announced an amnesty to surrendering Tamil Tiger guerrillas as security forces geared for their final assault on the rebel heartland of Jaffna.

Leaflets offering the amnesty to members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were being air-dropped over the northern Jaffna peninsula, a military spokesman here said.

"We are asking them to surrender without getting killed when the army goes in to Jaffna," the spokesman said, adding that the offer was made in leaflets printed in Tamil as well as over state radio.

Security forces have moved within a kilometre of Jaffna, the capital of a de facto state run by the LTTE in the island's north since 1990. The military says it is digging in before mounting the final push into Jaffna.

Troops Within 1 km of Jaffna

BK1711120195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops of Operation Riviresa are now within one kilometer of the Jaffna town. They liberated the Kopai area from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] yesterday. The security forces also captured two major terrorist camps. One camp named (Bosco) was equipped with training facilities. Troops recovered large stocks of arms and ammunition from the second camp known as (Dotcha). They also seized the Tamil Eelam Economic Affairs office. The political wing of the LTTE maintained its headquarters in this building.

Military Spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said at yesterday's cabinet news briefing that LTTE terrorists planned to blow up houses and buildings on the route used by troops to enter Jaffna. The Tigers are destroying and looting property to put the blame on the security forces. They have also forced civilians to leave Jaffna. The security forces are now consolidating their positions in liberated areas. Brigadier Munasinghe said that there were no reports of civilian casualties during the offensive, but 10 civilians have been reportedly killed in attacks launched by terrorists.

Meanwhile, the government has taken measures to provide relief to persons in the North and East displaced by terrorist attacks. Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake said that the cabinet has approved the issuing of dry ration to persons affected by recent LTTE attacks on nine villages in the Amparai, Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura, Trincomalee, Monaragalla, and Batticaloa districts. This proposal was made by Minister Mohamed Ashraff. The assistance will be provided as soon as possible. Families affected by the ban on fishing off the jungle near Batticaloa District and those engaged in farming will also receive dry ration.

The troops of Operation Riviresa have entered the final stages on their mission to liberate the Jaffna town from LTTE terrorists. Reports from Jaffna say that no incidents have been reported from last night to this afternoon. The security forces are continuing to consolidate their positions in the liberated areas and military leaders said that this was the first time the troops were able to establish camps in the areas captured from the terrorists. They said that the LTTE cadres will not be able to penetrate the liberated areas. Military sources said that the northern commanders could announce this afternoon in Jaffna for the LTTE cadres to denounce terrorism and surrender to the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

security forces. The troops will air-drop leaflets making this announcement.

Police: LTTE Sends 30 Bombers To Kill President

BK1711115595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1141 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 17 (AFP) — Security was stepped up in the Sri Lankan capital Friday ahead of the annual "Heroes' Week" of the Tamil Tiger guerrillas that is often marked by daredevil attacks, officials said.

Police said they beefed up security at vital installations and on streets frequented by the island's leaders ahead of the "Heroes' Week" starting on November 21.

The week is marked by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to mark the November 26 birthday of its chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, who was born in 1954 in Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka.

Every year the week sees stunning attacks on security forces across Sri Lanka's northeast, where a protracted campaign for a homeland has left more than 50,000 people dead.

Policemen armed with T-56 automatic rifles were seen at all road junctions and streets near the "Temple Trees," the heavily-guarded residence of President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Two LTTE guerrillas carried out a suicide attack outside the Sri Lankan army headquarters here on November 11, killing 21 people and injuring 65 others.

Police say up to 30 LTTE suicide bombers have sneaked into the capital to assassinate President Kumaratunga.

Security officials have been screening hotels and residential areas.

"All possible precautions have been taken," said chief army spokesman Sarath Munasinghe. "But we can expect more attacks."

Colombo has been a favourite target of the LTTE, now facing the biggest military offensive in its northern stronghold of Jaffna. Army troops have taken large areas in Jaffna since the drive began on October 17.

On October 20, LTTE guerrillas blew Sri Lanka's two main fuel storage tanks with a pre-dawn rocket attack which killed 29 people. A Tamil MP opposed to the Tigers survived an assasination bid two weeks earlier.

Authorities have already tightened security in schools and hospitals. Many schools have shut indefinitely, while patients have been told not to receive more than a visitor each in hospitals.

The security measures follow the army's rapid successes in Jaffna, where troops have smashed through LTTE lines and are only a kilometer (0.6 mile) from the Tamil Tiger citadel of Jaffna town.

On Tuesday, troops captured a military camp at Kopai near Jaffna which was used by the LTTE's intelligence section for training, military officials said.

The underground centre included a lecture hall and several rooms.

The LTTE intelligence section is an elite unit and is headed by a veteran known by his nom de guerre Pottu Amman, wanted by New Delhi for the 1991 assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi.

The takeover followed the capture of an underground Tamil Tiger hospital at Neerveli, its political headquarters at Kondavil and the office of the Tamil Eelam Development Organisation (TEEDO) in the past week.

Kopai, Neerveli and Kondavil are on the road to Jaffna.

Police Increase Bounty for LTTE Leader

BK1611162995 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 16 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police have increased the reward for the arrest of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran from Rs. [rupees] 5 million to Rs. 25 million or US dollars 500,000.

Announcing this new reward, Sri Lankan police chief W.B. Rajaguru said this reward will be made to any person who provides information leading to the arrest of Prabhakaran.

"The money will be paid in any country according to the choice of the person who provides such information and his anonymity will be safeguarded," police said.

A police spokesman said "this is possible as public and private organisations here and abroad have come forward voluntarily to donate this fund in support of the government's offer."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.